olume 189

FEBRUARY 24, 1968

No. 4593

N.H.S. Estimates

FURTHER 1967-68 INCREASES

AN additional provision of £3.65 million for pharmaceutical services in England and Wales in the year ending March 31 is sought in the Supplementary Civil Estimates, 1967-68 (H.M. Stationery Office, price

The provision is included in a supolementary estimate for Executive Council services of £4,315,000 and comprises £3,410,000 for England and 240,000 for Wales. It covers the following payments:

rently appearing in catalogues and price lists should be regarded as recommended resale prices only. Cameras and projectors are among the major items affected by the decision. Kodak Ltd., ended resale price maintenance

Present Provision		Revised Provision Change
£		££
52,000,000	PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES (1) Pharmacists	155,650,000+3,650,000
01,865,000	(a) Cost of drugs and appliances, etc.	105,673,000+3,808,000
13,320,000	(b) On-cost allowance	12,356,000 — 964,000
29,475,000	(c) Dispensing fees and rota payr ents	30,821,000+1,346,000
7,340,000	(2) Medical and dental practitioners	6,800,000 — 540,000

The changes are attributed mainly to n increased number of prescriptions artly offset by a reduction in the verage cost per prescription and in the ate of oncost allowance payable to hemists. An increase of £595,000 in the estimates for the supplementary ophthalmic services is sought to cover necessed fees and costs, partly offset by increased charges to patients.

Photographic Goods

R.P.M. CASE DROPPED

CHE British Photographic Manufacurers' Association and the Photographic Importers' Association and the Photographic Importers' Association and the Photographic Importers' Association and decided not to proceed with their ase before the Restrictive Practices Court for exemption of photographic coods from the terms of the Resale Prices Act, 1964. In letters sent to lealers and wholesalers after the mnouncement, Dr. A. Batley (marketing manager, Kodak, Ltd.,) stated that he company was not proceeding with the case on its own because it has been divised that the chances of success were slender "particularly in view of the decision of the Restrictive Practices Court in the case of the sweets and onfectionery trade, the only case so are fought out." While the Court had to yet made a final order the company left that, at least so far as Kodak goods were concerned, uncertainty should be unded and, with immediate effect, they were ending R.P.M. on all their emaining products and prices cur-

on colour and black-and-white films in October 1966 and February 1967 respectively. A similar announcement has been made by Ilford, Ltd. Agfa-Gevaert, Ltd. have also issued a statement saying that they felt it would be harmful to their interests and confusing to the trade if they persisted in maintaining prices in the few weeks remaining before the "inevitable" final order. They are therefore dropping resale price maintenance on all amateur products.

Security in Hospitals

GUILD MEMORANDUM

THE council of the Guild of Public Pharmacists, at a meeting on January 26, approved a memorandum on security in hospital pharmacies. The memorandum states that while, ideally, storage and issue of all drugs should be subject to security measures, a compromise would be necessary in practice. Extra security would be applied to (1) Dangerous Drugs; (2) drugs acting on the central nervous system. Three possible methods are given and an alarm is described as essential for proper security, access to the department outside working hours to be by a single key, kept at a place continually manned by responsible personnel. A doctor authorised to open the pharmacy would be required to sign for the key. Transportation of drugs in and between hospitals should always be made in a locked container accompanied by appropriate documents.

U.K. Chemical Industry GROWTH RATE COMPARED WITH U.S.

"EARNINGS in the United Kingdom chemical industry have been harder to find in recent years, and I see no reason to expect any significant improvement in the immediate future," said Mr. Peter Bracken (a senior staff member of Arthur D. Little, Ltd.), to members of a newly formed management group section of the Society of Chemical Industry on February 13. Mr. Bracken admitted that that was his personal view and not the outcome of a defini-



AUSTRALIAN CHEMISTS HAVE THEIR OWN CARPET: Members of the Federal Pharmaceutical Guild of Australia are able, under an arrangement entered into by the Guild with a carpet manufacturer, to cover the pharmacy floor with an all-over carpet in gold and bearing as a repeat motif a prescription "R" on white cross on dark ground. The one illustrated is at the pharmacy of Mr. Henry Francis in a Brisbane suburb.

tive study, but he pointed to the considerable disparity between the earnings growth rate of the British and American chemical companies. He estimated that the average annual earnings growth rate for U.K. chemical companies was about 2 per cent., against 7-8 per cent. in the United States. U.S. companies had generally maintained a steady rate of return on sales, but not so for most U.K. companies. The management of British chemical companies had two alternatives open to them in order to improve the outlook for profits, he said. They were: To seek opportunities in foreign markets where the overall rate of economic growth was higher than in the U.K. and where competition was less severe and to seek out the most profitable means of redeploying some of their U.K. resources through diversification and integration.

Electric Shavers

"MARKET EXPECTED TO BRIGHTEN"

ALTHOUGH an estimated 42 per cent. of male shavers in the United Kingdom own an electric razor, it is believed that only a quarter of all shaves are "dry", says a report prepared by the Economist Intelligence unit and published in the February issue of Retail Business. Key reason for that somewhat sluggish picture in the electric shaver market, says the report, is the development of the stainless steel blade coated with lubricant. That radical innovation, together with the in-tense competition between the blade manufacturers and consequent heavy promotional expenditure, has held back a more widespread acceptance of dry, as opposed to wet, shaving. The situa-tion has not been improved by the emphasis on brand awareness in the advertising of electric shavers, where a campaign to promote the concept of dry shaving might have been more appropriate. The future, however, secms brighter than the present. Considerable improvements in the efficiency of electric shavers have taken place since their introduction, but the need is for a major technical advance to direct consumer attention to the market. "The development of reasonably priced rechargeable models may offer this opportunity." About 70 per cent. of shavers are distributed through the wholesaler; independent chemists are believed to have sold 10 per cent. of total sales at mid-1966 (against 11 per cent. mid-1962).

Salaried Pharmacists

PRESCRIPTION CHARGES DISAPPROVED

A MOTION strongly disapproving of prescription charges as a tax on the sick was passed unanimously at the annual meeting of the Salaried Pharmacists' Union, held in London on February 18. The motion also considered that exempted categories, which should be clearly stated in advance, should not have to pay the charge and then claim a refund. The secretary (Mr. D. J. Gibson) was instructed to send copies of the motion to the Minister of Health, the Central N.H.S. (Chemist Contractors) Committee and a number of other bodies.

The meeting noted with satisfaction that he had already conveyed its contents to the Minister in a personal interview. Other subjects discussed at the meeting included retail dispensing and dispensing in health centres. A satisfactory increase in membership during the year was reported, with a high rate of acceptance of honorary membership for one year by newly qualified pharmacists, Messrs, R. F. Abbott, S. A. Ashley, F. Baker, S. Durham, R. Hutchinson, A. G. M. Madge, J. G. Robson, R. Sykes, C. E. Turner and G. H. Sheard were elected to the council of the Union for the coming year.

Retail Margins

PRICES BOARD PUBLISHES REPORT

IN general, manufacturers should reduce the percentage margin tradi-tionally allowed to distributors when increasing recommended prices to the final consumer because of devaluation, the National Board for Prices and Incomes recommends in a report "Distributors' Margins in Relation to Manufacturers' Recommended Prices," published on February 22. However the Board recognises that in some circumstances or in particular trades some increase may be appropriate but adds that any increases not involving a fall in the recommended percentage margins would "require very special justifica-tion." The Board was asked by the Government in December 1967 to examine distributors' margins in the event of an increase in the manufacturers' price attributable to devaluation on those goods for which resale prices are customarily recommended. Among 160 manufacturers interviewed by the Board five were makers of proprietary medicines, twenty-three of toiletries and three of photographic film.

Pharmacy Students

AWARDS COUNCIL GIVES NUMBERS

THE report for 1966-67 of the Council for National Academic Awards records that 514 students were enrolled on pharmacy courses leading to the Council's first degrees in 1967. Six schools of pharmacy (Brighton, Leicester, Liverpool and Portsmouth Colleges of Technology, Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, and Sunderland Technical College) now offer approved courses. Numbers of students in each year were:—

	1967	1966
First year	234	251
Second year	208	74
Third year	72.	

Eighteen candidates were registered for the Council's research degrees in pharmacy.

Supermarket Cuts Prices

CHEMISTS' GOODS THE MAIN TARGET

CUTS in prices of health and beauty preparations have been announced by Victor Value (Holdings), Ltd., following the company's decision to end the giving of trading stamps. The cuts are said to be "substantive." Main products involved are:— Macleans tooth-paste regular reduced to ls. $10\frac{1}{2}$ d., large

2s. 9d., economy 3s. 11d., giant 4s. 11d.; Band Aid plasters medium 2s., large 2s. 10d., wallet size 9d.; Get Set hair spray 4s. 6d.; Kotex sanitary towels, size 1 (5's) 1s., size 1 (12's) 2s. 3d., size 2 (12's) 2s. 6d.; Dr. White's sanitary towels No. 1 2s. 2d., No. 2 2s. 6d.; Lilia standard sanitary towels 1s. 11d.; Andrex double toilet tissues 1s. 4d.

Medicines Commission

"INDEPENDENCE" VIEW RESTATED

THERE is no justification for the Government's apparent wish directly to control the drug industry, says the British Medical Journal (February 17) in a leading article on the Medicines Bill. The Journal repeats its view that the proposed medicines commission should be an independent body, as suggested by the Sainsbury Committee report on the pharmaceutical industry. Extensive control of the industry might be justified, it is said, if less drastic measures had been shown to have failed.

IRISH NEWS
THE REPUBLIC

Duplication of Drugs

CALL FOR USE OF GENERIC NAMES

THE problem of duplication of drugs was referred to by Mr. G. Carroll M.P.S.I., representing Cork Corporation on the Cork Health Authority, at a meeting on February 12. He said that new drugs were being marketed every day replacing older drugs that became obsolete. The Minister for Health should strongly urge doctors truse the chemical or generic names of drugs when prescribing them instead of using the brand names. If that were done it would relieve chemists of having to carry large stocks of six different brands of the same drug. Mr Carroll produced samples of four different brands of the one drug sold in the Republic, whose price was practically identical.

THE NORTH

Ulster Chemists

ASSOCIATES' SECTION DANCE

THE Associates' Section of the Ulster Chemists' Association held their annua



At the Associates section of the Ulster Chemists' Association's annual dinner and dance held in Dunmurry recently. (From left)—Mr. J. Knox (president, Ulster Chemists' Association); Miss Ann E. Thompson (chairman, Associates' section) and Mr. B. Flatley (president, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland).

nner and dance in Dunmurry, co. ntrim, on February 14. About 200 lests were welcomed by Miss A. E. hompson (section chairman). During e evening a tombola was run for umerous prizes presented by local and coss-channel pharmaceutical comanies. Dancing continued until the arly hours.

RISH BREVITIES

HE REPUBLIC

THE Irish Pharmaceutical and ledical Representatives' Association we elected Mr. E. J. Bodkin their resident for the coming year. Secrety is Mr. Frank Prendergast and reasurer, Mr. Charles McDermott.

HE NORTH

PRESCRIPTIONS dispensed in Northern eland during November 1967 numbered 926,361 (584,655 forms). Total st was £562,485, an average of 5.73d. per prescription.

EWS IN BRIEF

SUPPLEMENT number 2 to catalogue radioactive products 1967-68 has en published by the Radiochemical ntre, Amersham, Bucks.

THE proceedings of the second British st Control Conference, held at Nothgham in April 1967, have been publied (price £1 5s., post free) by the dustrial Pest Control Association, lembic House, 93 Albert Embankent, London, S.E.1.

TAXATION, restrictive trade practices, ofessional services and social security e among the topics covered in turope and the Law" (pp. 96, 10s. cluding postage), available from the onservative Political Centre, 32 with Square, London, S.W.I.

THE Ministry of Labour have proceed a revised edition of their ethods for the Detection of Toxic bstances in Air booklet, No. 8 hosgene" (H.M. Stationery Office, ice 5s.). The booklet describes the ethod of testing for phosgene at the w tentative threshold limit value of l p.p.m. The test is capable of being policy in about five minutes.

THE chief medical officer of the inistry of Health (Sir George odber) has written to hospital mediladvisory committees asking that ey help in "a drive to free staff or sources which are not at present being ed to the best advantage for reployment elsewhere." The savings ll be applied to the "more rapid aprovement" of the service.

WHILE not denying the danger in f-medication and the value of the armacist's advice, the Consumer runcil considers that the Pharmautical Society's view that the adverting of proprietary medicines direct the public should be completely ned is "rather too restrictive." The arch issue of the Council's publication, points out that the Governation, points out that the Governation also appears to disagree, "as own by the Medicines Bill." The Bill es include power to regulate advergements, Focus points out.

TOPICAL REFLECTIONS

By Xrayser

Branch Representatives

One of the earliest signs of the passing of the winter of our discontent is the publication of the motions to be considered by the Branch Representatives in May, even if a perusal of their content (p. 140) does not make glorious summer. It must be with a sense of relief that those making the journey have learned that there has been a pruning of the original number of resolutions from thirty-three to twenty-one, but even that list is sufficiently formidable to test the endurance of those concerned. We have, of course, no knowledge of the content of the twelve that were withdrawn, though it is possible that they were not unrelated to the residue. But while recognising the right of branches to submit resolutions and to have them accepted and debated, one occasionally has the impression that mountains have laboured and brought forth mice. A little voluntary restraint might still further curtail the agenda. The resolutions are published in the order in which it is proposed to take them. Consequently Cambridge and Huntingdon may feel that their effort has been regarded as the least important item on the agenda, since it bears the number 21. But then we do not know what factors have influenced the order of merit, and Cambridge and Huntingdon may have deduced that their place in the programme has been governed by the principles of the Music Hall of bygone days, when the artist who topped the bill appeared last — and that is not very flattering to North Staffordshire. Nevertheless, a number of resolutions deal with matters which have been very much in the forefront of Council thought and consideration, and under that heading would come those standing in the name of Liverpool. It may be that the Medicines Bill and the regulations thereanent will take care of the question of control of new pharmacies and protection of concentration of two or more pharmacies into one efficient and economic unit. The Council is not unaware of or unsympathetic towards the points made in those resolutions, which have been upon subjects that have been discussed at Branch Representative's meetings, in previous years.

Constitution of the Council

Resolutions numbered 5 and 6 are concerned with Council representation, that from Somerset advocating regional, as well as individual, representation. It is a horse that should know this course pretty well by now, but it has not suceeded in passing the post in its previous appearances. That from West Hertfordshire at No. 6 asks for continuous representation of sectional interests—private general practice, company pharmacy, hospital, industrial and academic. That is a horse of a different colour which failed to clear its fences on a previous occasion, and it found few backers in the country as a whole. Though now retired from Council, Mr. C. W. Maplethorpe has continued to advocate such a reconstitution, for election under present procedure does not ensure a complete cross-section, even if all interests have in fact been represented with a fair measure of balance at most times. But to pass the resolution in the form in which it is couched would be dangerous, in that it gives the Council carte blanche. It would be more prudent to ask Council to examine and report back to the branches or their representatives, and such an amendment may appear on the day.

Other Points

There are other points raised in the resolutions. A combined one asks for suitable control of the conditions under which post-graduate training is undergone, and that will have my support. Another suggests that the Council should assist pharmacists to fulfil their role as a source of pharmaceutical product information. I do not feel that the Society's efforts have been inadequate in that direction, and there are other prolific sources. [Modesty forbids full mention.—Editor.] But we have had extolled the virtues of practising what we preach. Ayrshire wants branches to be confined to only one resolution—and behaves accordingly. With that recommendation we may hope that Branch Representatives as a whole will agree.

Medicines Bill Passes Second Reading

HINTS OF COMMITTEE-STAGE PRESSURES

OPENING the debate on the second reading of the Medicines Bill in the House of Commons on February 15, the Minister of Health (MR. KENNETH ROBINSON) said that legislation on the subject had been gestating for a good ten years. The appearance of new and potent medicines was attended by risks. Existing medicines legislation was never designed to cope with the problems arising from those disadvantages. The voluntary system of screening drugs for toxicity had the full support of the pharmaceutical industry and the medical and pharmaceutical professions, but the Government was convinced that the provision of statutory backing should not be further delayed. In-deed, the Committee on Safety of Drugs itself believed that the arrangements should be given permanence within the framework of legislation.

The Minister reviewed the clauses of the Bill (see C. & D., February 10, p. 162) and in doing so made a number of comments. The Bill as it stood, he said, did not allow the Medicines Commission to perform the broader func-tion contemplated by the Sainsbury Committee of providing practitioners with information about medicines, but Clause 90 enabled it to publish regular compendia about action and uses. The Government saw no reason why that function should not be extended and intended to move an amendment to that effect in committee.

Clause 93 enabled appropriate provisions to be applied to other products, including dictary supplements. That had given rise to some fears in the health food industry. But there was no intention to restrict the sale of such goods to pharmacies.

Some Definitions not Covered

The Bill's definition of "medicinal product" did not cover crude chemicals, bulk ingredients or toilet preparations, foods, disinfectants and so on, whose primary use was not medicinal. If any of those products needed to be brought within the control provisions an order under Clause 93 or 94 would be necessary. The words "manufac'ured," cold supplied imported or experted," sold, supplied, imported or exported" for medicinal use were critical. For instance, the main use of carbon tetrachloride was industrial and the substance itself was not a medicinal product. If, however, some of the substances were set aside, further prosubstances were set aside, further pro-cessed and put up for veterinary use for liver fluke, that purpose made that part a medicinal product. Again, vitamins were not mainly sold for medicinal uses but a vitamin product made up and sold to prevent disease or deal with dietary deficiency became a medicinal product a medicinal product.

On manufacture, the Minister said at, where the licensing authority that, where the licensing authority issued a formal refusal, it must send the applicant a notice stating the grounds for the decision, which was then final, but there was right of appeal to the High Court. If the Court quashed a decision it did not itself make a substitute decision. The licensing authority took the application up again at the point immediately before the final decision was reached and made a fresh decision in the light of any High Court observations.

The importance attached to confidentiality of information furnished to licensing authority and advisory bodies was stressed by the maximum penalties, supplementing the standard provisions of the Official Secrets Act.

Consultation on Labelling

Before labelling and advertisement regulations were brought in there would have to be consultations with interests affected, and he had no doubt the Medicines Commission would think that an advisory committee should be set up.

The statutory licensing system could be operated rigidly, but the intention was to retain the flexible administration that had been so effective under the voluntary schemes. In general there was a high standard of responsibility in the pharmaceutical industry "and we shall have failed if we move into a situation in which firms try to take every possible loophole they can find and thus compel the officials concerned with the administration of the Bill to handle applications in an atmosphere of suspicion."

The Government's view of the Medicines Commission was that it should be executive in some respects but advisory only on licensing, the funda-mental responsibility for which must rest with Ministers answerable to Parliament.

MR. MAURICE MACMILLAN said the Minister was setting up a somewhat bureaucratic machine to operate his powers, and was reversing procedures which in some cases had worked well in practice. He was sceking new powers for himself and his servants, and some of them seemed to go a long way. One clause gave astonishing powers of entry, including entry into a private house without a warrant. Power of entry was to be given to the Minister's own staff, the food and drug authority and the Pharmaceutical authority Society.

What was intended was admirable; it was to deal with three aspects of it was to deal with three aspects of drugs and medicines; safety, quality and control; description and labelling; and sale and promotion. All would agree with the aim, but the right and duty of the doctor to prescribe as he saw fit for his patient should in no way be inhibited. The public should not be unduly restricted in its own protection. Industry should be able to manufacture and promote its products at home and overseas with reasonable freedom. freedom.

It was to be left to regulations to decide what medicines should be freely sold. The Bill gave the extent of the control but no hint of the principle on which the control would be operated.

The Minister should take great care

in how he handled the retail side of

the trade. In those countries where the trade market was fixed by law, or by a professional body, and where the sale of medicine was wholly restricted to pharmacists, the profit margins were higher than where there was greater freedom for the manufacturer and the retailer.

On both the manufacturing and the retail sides Mr. Macmillan said he was left a little uncertain as to the precise relationship between the MacGregor Committee and the Medicines Commission or the expert committees. I was not clear whether some of the Sainsbury Committee's recommendations and the sainsbury committee in th tions-notably those on price-could be applied subsequently either directly or

through the MacGregor Committee.

Like other people, he was no happy about the procedure on appeal for licences. It seemed as if the peoplinvolved in discussions leading to a original decision would be almos judges in their own cause. There wa a similar danger in the use of Pharma ceutical Society's testing laboratorie for analyses done on behalf of th Society acting for the Minister.

On the general sales list Mr. Mac millan said he believed there wer about 15,000 pharmacies agains 150,000 other shops selling some forr of home remedy and that the value of the retail trade in household medicine was about £40 million, about half an was about £40 million, about hair an half divided between pharmacy an non-pharmacy outlets. He hoped the Minister would ensure that everythin that was now freely on sale would with one or two possible exception stay on the initial list, and that the same procedure as had been later that the same place that the same general list would follow in practic the same procedure as had been la down for licensing medicines. It w important that that should be e amined extremely carefully. Veterina medicines were in a different catego to human medicines and he hoped the Under Secretary of State when I replied would be able to say how the expert committee would operate. expert committee would operate.

Clinical Testing

Mr. A. BLENKINSOP welcomed the provisions about clinical testing. situation had been somewhat unsat factory, because the only way in whi clinical testing could be achieved w by representatives of the firm maki private arrangements with a hospi and building up a relationship with individual specialist in a hospital. Th might mean that a small firm whi might have something of real val to contribute had not been able to so. Mr. Blenkinsop also welcomed t provisions for the control of general sale list although he had so anxiety about whether the contr-were adequate. It would also wrong, he said, to allow the develo ment, as was apparently suggested, the use of automatic vending machin When MR. PETER MII for drugs. asked whether the member could the difference between a sixteen-ye old girl in a chemist shop and a verng machine—"we hand our money over o both." Mr. BLENKINSOP replied that e was about to make it clear that he id not accept the whole of the argu-nent put forward by many pharma-ists who seemed to take the view that here was complete security provided verybody went into the pharmacy. It epended on who might be serving. There was, nevertheless, an added heck. The existence of the vending nachines was based on the assumption hat those drugs in any quantity were Il right. One had to balance the proper eed for some kind of availability with ne dangers that might arise and he uggested that the subject should be booked at again. So far from regardng the provisions about advertising as oo onerous, he doubted whether there was a case for advertising. On the whole, the Minister had got the alances right in the Bill. He needed the co-operation of all concerned in the nedical profession, pharmacy and in-eed the industry to make sure that he scheme worked effectively.

ncrease in Civil Servants

SIR M. STODDART-SCOTT complained hat members had heard nothing about ne increase in staff needed at he Ministry "for all that licensing." le did not know who would draw up he general sale list but he hoped it yould be made as extensive as possible. Drugs to the value of £40 million a ear were sold by tobacconists and obained from automatic vending nachines. "It saves a lot of work or the general practitioner if these ousehold remedies could be obtained ound the corner." Often when the harmacist had closed, the household emedies could still be obtained. If nose outlets were to be discontinued ne general practitioner would have a reatly increased burden placed upon im. In Germany, where there was no uch list, and all household remedies ad to be bought from the "pharma-ist's shop," they had found that it did ot work and in 1962 had "instituted a milar system to that which we had in nis country." The pharmaceutical in-ustry was a "useful" one. When it had aid for the raw materials required to nanufacture the drugs and after count had been taken of all the drugs mported, there was a balance of paynent £28 million in Britain's favour. COLONEL SIR TUFTON BEAMISH said the mount was more than that in 1966. he last year for which he had figures xports amounted to £75 million and mports were about £20 million DR. M. S. MILLER asked whether Sir

1. Stoddart-Scott would expand a little n the exports by the British pharmaeutical industry and say how much of ne profit was made by British firms nd how much by American or Ameri-an-dominated firms. SIR M. STODDART COTT said that one of his friends ould be dealing with that aspect later. e would like two assurances before ne debate ended. The first was that no mit should be placed on prescribing y doctors, and that they would be able prescribe whatever was necessary.

DR. M. S. MILLER said that his gures showed a favourable balance of ayments of international receipts and

payment of £28.3 millions in 1965. However, it was the British firms that had made the favourable balance. United States firms had had an adverse balance. It seemed therefore that there was a mixed blessing about the state of the pharmaceutical industry in the U.K. He did not want to enter into the pro's and con's of vending machines but he must tell Mr. PETER MILLS that there was a difference between even a sixteen-year-old girl serving in a pharmacist's shop under instruction of a qualified chemist and a vending machine that could not refuse to sell a packet of medicine to a six- or seven-year-old child.

Vending Machine or Assistant?

Mr. Peter Mills: There are many occasions on which a sixteen-year-old child is in the shop without a qualified man being present. Dr. MILLER: I imagine that she would have received general instruction from the qualified pharmacist not to serve any young children that come toddling into the

It was manifestly impossible, he went for the majority of doctors to be fully acquainted with the details of all the 3,000 proprietary preparations that were available to him at present. The drug bill was costing the nation £160 million a year and that was only for prescriptions written by doctors and dis-pensed by chemists. It did not take into account medicines which people bought for themselves. £160 million was almost 50 per cent, more than the total cost to the family doctor service. The number of prescriptions over the years 1949 to 1966 had risen by only $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum but the cost of the prescriptions had risen during each of those years by an average of 30 per cent. He would like to see the list of proprietary preparations pruned down to preparations that were more easily handled by the average practitioner. Not all the 3,000 preparations were different from one another. Was it really necessary for example to have eighty-one preparations for the treatment of high blood pressure and thirty-two for the treatment of obesity? The proliferation was dangerous because by its sheer volume it prevented a doctor from having a detailed knowledge of all the drugs in his armoury. The drug industry was a good industry, but 49 per cent. of all prescriptions dis-pensed by chemists in the country were for drugs which were manufactured by companies that were not British at all but American owned. Only 27 per cent. of the market was supplied by British companies, 14 per cent. by Swiss and 10 per cent. by other European countries

MR. NIGEL FISHER began his speech by declaring an interest as he was a director of one of the leading a director of one of the leading groups of pharmaceutical companies in Britain. He spent a good deal of time criticising points in the report of the Sainsbury Committee, going on to say that he accepted in principle the licensing system of the Bill.

MR. IVOR RICHARD, who said he had been approached to speak on behalf of the Pharmceutical Society said the licensing provisions in Part II

of the Bill were some of the most desirable in the measure because no manufacturer escaped the net. While any result of that obligation would be to ensure that medicinal products which were now put on the market would be subjected to additional scrutiny, was the Minister totally satisfied that he had sufficient latitude to adjust to that if necessary? Could he, for example, permit a general author-isation to be given to pharmacists to undertake the manufacture of the preparations normally undertaken in such establishments?

Mr. Kenneth Robinson interrupted to assure him that there was a specific exemption for pharmacies from the manufacturing licence in respect of drugs which they dispensed themselves MR. RICHARD asked the Minister whether it was his intention to start more or less from scratch with the appropriate professional committees and decide virtually anew what drugs should be permitted to remain in general circulation. He was doubtful about the desirability of selling such products from automatic vending machines. The degree of control in the pharmacist's shop must be greater than the control exercisable on any sort of automatic vending machine. There were dangers in that which he hoped the Minister would consider. What possibility was there of registering shops in which medicinal products on the general list were to be sold? In other words, if a store was to sell a medicinal product and the shop was not a pharmacy, should it have a licence? Sales promotion of medicines had been responsible in the past for more criticism than any other aspect of the supply of medicines. He asked the Minister to consider "whether or not it is desirable in the public interest not merely to have the control on advertising set out in the Bill but also to have an absolute prohibition on the advertising of proprietary medicines sold direct to the general public." Such a prohibition would go to create a greater sense of responsibility in the public mind towards the use of medicines. Advertising conditioned the public mind so as to prejudice the acceptance of a pharmacist advice on the suitability of a medicine requested by a customer. Mr. Richard also referred to the reputation and the general knowledge acquired by the Phar-maceutical Society over the years in setting standards, and he expressed the hope that a way would be found to take advantage of the Society's facilities not only in setting standards but also in publishing them. DR. M. P. WINSTANLEY said that in talking about WINSTANLEY said that in taking about testing drugs it should be remembered that the only final and satisfactory test of the safety of a new drug was giving it to a patient. There was a tendency to think that the cost of drugs in Britain was immensely high and that the country spent an enormous amount on drugs. In comparison with other countries Britain was very economical.

Placebos "Regretted"

Dr. Winstanley said that, in common with many of his colleagues, he had

tended perhaps to a regrettable degree to give a patient a bottle of cheap inert medicine rather than explain to him that he did not need any medicine. He thought it had to be recognised that the industry in private enterprise hands, though sometimes not as competitive as he would like it to be, had broadly speaking served the nation well. Members who sometimes talked hopefully about nationalisation should be reminded that in the Soviet Union, where great strides and progress had been made in medicine generally, the drug industry, which was nationalised, had not produced a single therapeutic advance. His own researches into the question of what drugs doctors prescribed showed that the range of drugs used by any individual general practitioner was not large — only about twenty. The trouble was that they all used a different twenty. The literature that a general practitioner received from the drug firms was aimed at persuading practitioners to continue to prescribe old drugs rather than to embark on any hazardous adventurous process with a new drug. He did not object to new drugs coming forward. What he objected to was that not enough of the old ones disappeared. For that the industry was partly at fault, and so were the profession and the Ministry. For example, aspirin was a valuable drug, yet experience had shown that it had certain side effects. As a result of recent advances, there were now soluble preparations of the drug that were much less inclined to give rise to those side-effects. So aspirin ought now to disappear. What practitioners were not getting, either from the Ministry or the drug industry in any concerted way, was a detailed analysis of the relative merits of the different drugs. In many ways, said Dr. Winstanley, the hope for medicine in the U.K. lay in spending more rather than less on drugs.

MRS. JOYCE BUTLER, speaking as a layman, said she had raised for the first time in the House of Commons in 1962 the question of the drug thalidomide, and she thought it might be useful to refer to that occasion in order to put into perspective the Bill now before the House. The remarkable feature of that occasion had been there was no challenge, no response. That came only later. She welcomed the Bill and congratulated the Minister and his Department on having produced such a measure. However, the use of the words "medicinal product" could be taken to include health foods and dietary supplements. Unless those substances were excluded specifically, their sale would be confined to registered pharmacists, which seemed absurd when, in the main, the registered pharmacists did not want to sell them.

Inadequate Consultation

COLONEL SIR TUFTON BEAMISH declared an interest in that he had been for about ten years a part-time director of a pharmaceutical company. He regretted that the White Paper had been published after quite inadequate consultation with the British Medical Association and the pharmaceutical industry and that there had been only ten

days between the publication of the Bill and its second reading. He congratulated the Minister on resisting some of the wilder recommendations of the Sainsbury Committee (some of them superficially attractive to certain people but damaging in the long term to the drug industry and the health and prosperity of the nation). He admitted that the present Minister had shown himself well aware of the industry's success record and that he understood its problems. But, said Colonel Beamish, the Minister was under considerable pressure to follow certain courses with popular appeal in some quarters, but which would have disastrous and long-term implications: he was thinking in particular of pressures to abolish brand names, to erode still further the inadequate patent protec-tion companies enjoyed; and to introduce rule-of-thumb standard cost returns on every individual drug. last course would be both unworkable and unfair, and any of the three courses would stifle the industry's ability to carry out the expensive research that was its life blood. He wanted to concentrate on the principle of the doctor's freedom to prescribe. In that context he was thinking of drugs that showed only a marginal advance on existing products. A marginal advance or difference might have a specially beneficial effect on one patient com-pared with others. "We shall have to look carefully at this point in Committee to try to ensure that a licence may not be refused on the grounds that it relates to a product held to be less or no more efficacious than another product already available." One other section gave him concern: clauses 83-88 dealing with advertising and promotion. He hoped the Minister would co-operate with the industry in trying to improve the code of advertising conduct which the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry and Proprietary Association of Great Britain already had, but rules and restrictions should not be imposed without careful consultation.

"Biggest Retailer's" Viewpoint

MR. MICHAEL ENGLISH said the Bill had been discussed from the point of view of the manufacturing industry and from the point of view of the pharmacists. It had not been discussed from the point of view of the biggest single retailer, the headquarters of which was in his own constituency of Nottingham, giving him a constituency interest in the matter. There was a difference between the purely manufacturing and the retailing points of view, and he was sorry to see the nature of the proposed composition of the Medicines Commission, with representatives of the practice of medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, chemistry, and of the pharmaceutical industry except so much of it as related to retail sale. Nowhere was it proposed that there should be on it representatives of the people who sold the drugs. The object of the Bill being to prevent drugs that might be harmful being sold to the public, it was extraordinary that there should be no one concerned with the retail side of the industry on the Commission. He asked the Minister also to give a definition of the "supervision" by a pharmacist.

Household Medicines

MR. DAVID CROUCH declared an interest, being a director of an advertising agency concerned in one instance with proprietary medicines and in another with "ethical" medicines. He felt that the Bill had far too many open "swinging" doors. He hoped the Minister would later, in Committee, take note of some of those loose ends and tie up the legislation, which had good intentions but could be made much better. It might be thought that Part 3 of the Bill—household medicines—was the least important, but the Minister had stretched his net very wide indeed. Only recently, during the flu epidemic, the Ministry of Health had advised people by advertisements on the radio, on television and in the Press not to call on their doctor unless very ill, but to go to bed and take a couple of aspirins. That was sensible, pragmatic and reasonable advice. Let the Government therefore not try to restrict the sale of those household medicines. Few people would take more aspirin than they should, just as few would take a laxative unnecessarily. There was a consumer need for a broad scale of availability of household medicines, and there was no evidence of injury suffered by the public as a result of sale in a wide range of shops. In approaches made to him by members of the Pharmaceutical Society, it had been pointed out that even aspirin tablets taken in excessive numbers could be dangerous. So could many things. It was not for the House to legislate about them by saying they must immediately be taken out of the public's grasp. The Pharmaceutical Society featured largely in the measure He accepted that its members were people who gave wise advice to their customers about the products on sale but the Bill went somewhat further ir building up the Society in its respon sibilities. For example, the Society had in evidence said that it would like to see all public advertising of household remedies banned. He did not think tha that was the Minister's intention, bu in those circumstances the public would be asked to rely entirely on the cha mist's recommendation and possibly in future on his own mixtures and medi cines, and would be denied the oppor tunities of the free competition an massive production of simple medicine under good safe industrial and clinica conditions. The introduction of house hold remedies could not await the slow process of word-of-mouth recommenda tion, so advertising, distribution an marketing were necessary. There wer already safeguards. MR. LAWRENCE PAVITT said that tw

MR. LAWRENCE PAVITT said that tw powerful and sufficiently argued attack on the Sainsbury report had bee made in the debate. It would be in possible for the Under-Secretary t deal with those attacks in his repl because he must be concerned with the Bill. Mr. Pavitt therefore pleaded wit the Minister to ensure that an oppotunity was provided for those attack to be answered in a complete deba

on the Sainsbury report. It was important that the Medicines Commission should be led by a professor of pharmacology and that the body should be seen to be independent of politics. He could see in the Bill no power to withdraw a licence, and said the power should be there. There should also be the possibility of licences being reviewed every three years. If that opportunity were not taken by the Minister now, he would not be able to take it later. If he was to secure the procurement of drugs as services of the Crown in general practice in the same way as was able to do it for hospitals, he must do it in the Bill. Good business on behalf of the taxpayer meant adopting the same kind of methods as Marks & Spencer adopted in buying. He declared his interest as a member of the Co-operative movement and asked for an assurance that there would be no restriction on a corporate body or publically owned movement such as the Co-op to provide a pharmacy service for its members, provided that properly qualified men were employed in positions of responsibility. Over the the past sixteen years the prescribing of non-proprietary drugs had remained steady at just about £10 million. The cost of prescribing branded drugs the proprietaries — had risen from under £10 million to £78 millions a year. If that expenditure could be greatly reduced, the taxpayer would be saved a lot of money. He wished the Bill well but wanted co-operation as one of partnership, not on the industry's terms or on the Government's terms, but by an arrangement between

the two that was fair and equitable.

MR. PAUL DEAN (Somerset North) said that little had been said in the debate about agricultural feeding-stuffs and veterinary medicines. Because that aspect had been sandwiched into a Bill dealing largely with human medicines, it was therefore important it should be examined extremely carefully. He hoped the Minister would say there would be an expert committee dealing specifically with veterinary medicines.

The Government's reply

Winding up the debate the Under Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Bruce Millan) said there had been criticism that the Bill did not implement all the recommendations of the Sainsbury Committee. On the other hand one member seemed to take as a fact that recommendations of the Sainsbury Committee which had not been dealt with were to be set aside by the Minister. That was not the case. The Committee had made a number of recommendations which were not relevant to that kind of legislation. As was generally known, the Minister and other Ministers concerned had been generally having discussions with representative interests about, for example, brand names. They were not yet in a posi-tion to make their final decisions known. It was not possible to be categoric about the expert committees that were to be established. But he would be surprised if there were not one dealing specifically with veterinary products. The Bill put vectorines virtually on all fours The Bill put veterinary medihuman medicines and that seemed right. In general the broad purpose was to safeguard human beings whether as users of the veterinary product or consumers of food substances from treated animals. It was the Government's intention that substances such as some vitamins and crude chemicals, which might be added to feeding-stuffs should be brought within the scope of the Bill by using the power in clause 93. A number of members had raised the question of independence of the Medicines Commission but he thought it was the general feeling in the House that, in a matter of such importance, when statutory responsibilities and rights were to be given to a body, it should be under the ultimate control of the Ministers

Scales Not Yet Fixed

He could not at the moment give any indication of what the scale of licensing fees might be because it would have to be discussed with the outside interests involved. However, it seemed an essential principle that the fees should cover the expenses necessarily involved in that part of the legislation. He had been asked a number of questions about the general sales list. It was not possible to be specific because the matter was another of which the Government would have the advice of an expert committee. The chemists would like to make the list

restrictive, but a number of members had suggested that it should be very The member for Farnham (Mr. Macmillan) had suggested that every-thing that could be on sale should be included as a right on a preliminary general sales list. That would be defeating the purpose of a new provision. If it were satisfactory that all the products on general sale at the moment should be on general sale, there would hardly be need for the introduction of the new provisions in the Bill. Mr. Richard had raised the point about registration of shops but it would be an elaborate and cumbersome pro-cedure to try to take on that subsubstantial registration job apart from the registration of pharmacies. At the end of the day he doubted if it would be of any real public benefit to do so. Despite what Mr. Mills had said, sales by vending machines were different from sales in a shop; as a result there were special provisions in the Bill to deal with them. Mr. Macmillan's contention that, in the pharmaceutical, as in other industries, there was much to be said for the discipline of the market place, might be true as a general proposition but he would have thought it strictly irrelevant to preventing medicines being sold by false and misleading descriptions, which was one of the objects of the Bill. Even the most enthusiastic supporter of the discipline of the market place would hardly argue that it gave manufacturers of medicines the right to mislead.

INFORMATION FOR MANUFACTURERS

Test-market Advertising Service. — A new means of advertising in test-market areas is being offered by Woman's Own (publishers George Newnes, Ltd., 15 Long Acre, London, W.C.2). It is now possible to "tip in" a special leaf carrying advertisement on one side and editorial matter on the other, up to a maximum of 25,000 copies of any one issue. The special copies are then distributed, through normal wholesale channels, either to one or more concentrated areas, or evenly throughout Britain. A population area of 500,000 would, in theory, be covered by 25,000 copies. A brochure describing the service is available.

Merchandising Under Contract.— Since July 1966, Merchandising Manpower Ltd., Greater London House, Hampstead, London, N.W.1, have carried out eleven contracts for Glaxo Laboratories Ltd., Greenford, Middlesex. During each campaign the company's team erected displays in selected pharmacies. Products promoted were Ostermilk and Farex baby foods, and Complan. Glaxo representatives arranged for the erection of display material in windows, or on shop floors or counters. Messrs. M. M. L.'s personnel erected the displays. 3,928 displays were erected over nine months.

Reduced Charges.—A number of the services offered by A. C. Nielsen Co., Ltd., Headington, Oxford, are now available at cheaper rates. Recently the scale of charges for retabulating Nielsen shop audit data to tie in with television areas were reduced Information produced for a manufacturer's

own sales areas also costs less. The present price reduction mainly results from increased demand for television area retabulations, but increased capacity on the new Nielsen operated IBM 360/40 computer is another factor. Messrs. Nielsen say that their policy is to keep their services as flexible as possible and to make a further reduction in retabulation charges so soon as increased syndication permits

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as well as for magazine inserts and give-aways. Right-hand picture shows plastic wallet with "see-through" front and embossed with name on the back. Wallet is available in a variety of sizes and colours to hold four to eight emery boards and/or cuticle sticks. Emery boards are available in colours to match product pack.

IN PARLIAMENT

By a Member of the Press Gallery, House of Commons

THE Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Mr. Frederick Peart), announced on February 15 that he proposed to appoint a committee of inquiry into the policy and arrangements for dealing with foot-and-mouth disease, and that the Duke of Northumberland was to be chairman of the committee.

Prescription Charges

In answer to many questions on February 13 concerning the exemptions to be made from prescription charges MR. KENNETH ROBINSON (Minister of Health) said he had little to add as yet to the Prime Minister's statement on January 16, Discussions with the medical profession were proceeding and he hoped soon to start discussions with the other interests concerned.

The Minister also told Mr. F. O. HOOLEY that he was not persuaded that it was administratively impossible to produce an equitable scheme of exemption.

MR. J. RANKIN asked the Secretary for Scotland on February 14 in what percentage of prescriptions refunds were obtained in each of the last four years when there were prescription charges. MR. W. Ross (Secretary State, Scotland): The amounts refunded in 1961 were over 9 per cent. and in each of the following three years of the order of 10 per cent. of the total charges collected.

Dr. J. E. O. Dunwoody asked the Minister of Health what, "in the last convenient 12-month period" would have been the revenue from a prescription charge of 2s. 6d. per item on each prescription issued. The Minister of Health replied that on the basis of the number of prescriptions actually issued in England and Wales, about £34m. during the financial year ended March 31, 1967.

DR. DUNWOODY also asked the estimated proportion of the community that would be exempted from prescription charges and he was told "upwards of 40 per cent, of the population." MR. ROBINSON expected that roughly half of all prescriptions would be issued to patients in those categories.

Saiusbury Committee

MR. ROY HUGHES asked on February 13 what progress had been made to implement the proposals contained in the Sainsbury report in order to economise in the N.H.S.

MR ROBINSON: Consultations have been taking place on the Committee's recommendations and I shall make a statement as soon as I can.

MR. NIGEL FISHER asked the Minister of Health on February 13 to make an estimate of the number of additional civil servants and their total salaries which would be required by his Department in order to implement the recommendations of the Sainsbury Committee, but MR. ROBINSON said that until the Government had reached conclusions on the Committee's recommendations there would be little

purpose in making such an estimate.

MR. FISHER also asked the Minister what was the precise amount referred to in the report of the Sainsbury Committee by which the National Health Service had been overcharged by the pharmaceutical industry over a period of three years.

MR. ROBINSON: The Committee's statement was: "The figures suggest that the cost to the N.H.S. has been inflated by excessive prices to the extent of several millions of pounds over this

period of three years."
MR. FISHER: How many millions is 'several'? Surely you must know the answer to this because the Committee's whole case against the industry is based on it. Surely the House is entitled to know the answer to enable us to assess the value of the report, especially as one of the major companies was criticised and the charge made against it has since been shown to be disingen-

ous, to put it mildly.

MR. ROBINSON: No, I do not think that the Committee is obliged to put a gloss on its report. I can only repeat what the Committee said, and I do not think it is true to say that the Committee mounted a case against the industry. I would have thought that it was a very fair report.

"A Big Fiddle"

MR. W. J. MOLLOY: Many of the reports are leading many M.P.s to believe that somebody is on a big fiddle in this industry. Is it not about time that you considered a much greater degree of public control and ownership of this industry?

MR. ROBINSON: This aspect of the

problem was specifically considered by the Sainsbury Committee and it produced a clear negative report on this issue.

MR. MAURICE MACMILLAN: It has been privately estimated that savings from implementing the Sainsbury recommendations might amount to about £2m. a year. Would you agree that the savings under the voluntary price regulation scheme have been of the nature of £4½m, a year?

MR. ROBINSON: I do not know who made that estimate, I wonder whether it was made by some members of the pharmaceutical industry itself. I can only say that some of my friends estimate that figure at more than £25m.

Infective Drug Resistance

MR. T. G. P. KITSON asked the Minister of Health what consideration his department had given to the problem of infective drug resistance.

Mr. Robinson said that aspects of the problem were studied by the Netherthorpe Committee, whose recommendations had now been accepted in principle by the Government, which m principle by the Government, which was giving further consideration to the problem in the light of recently published articles. Most antibiotics were already controlled under the Therapeutic Substances Act, 1956, and the Medicines Bill now before Parliament provided for stricter control should that be found necessary.

Committee on Drug Dependence

MR. E. L. MALLALIEU asked the Home Secretary, on February 8, when he expected to receive the report of the Advisory Committee on Drug Dependence. MR. D. TAVERNE (Under Secretary of State, Home Department) replied "About the middle of the year on the assumption that Mr. Mallalieu was referring to the report about can-nabis and lysergic acid diethylamide." MR. W. F. DEEDES asked the Home

Secretary when he proposed to introduce legislation to cover the misuse of Methedrine, MR. DICK TAVERNE (Under Secretary State, Home Office): Methedrine is already subject to control under the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1964 and Schedule 4B of the Poisons Rules, 1968. The Advisory Committee on Drug Dependence is considering whether further safeguards against misuse are needed.

Restrictive Trade Practices Act

In a written answer on February 14, Mr. Anthony Crosland (President, Board of Trade), said he hoped to introduce a Bill amending the Restrictive Trade Practices Act during the present session. It would include a provision enabling the Minister, in appropriate cases, to grant temporary exemption from registration, under the 1956 Act, to agreements that were "positively beneficial" to the national economy. Proposals would also include an additional defence for agreements that did not materially restrict competition and the widening of the Board of Trade's power in relation to insignificant agreements. Mr. Crosland also indicated he proposed to make informative agreements registrable and to include a simple provision that would make any registrable restrictive agreement unlawful if it came into operation before registration or if it were not registered within three months "of its making", whichever was the earliest. Other powers would enable the Government to exempt from registration price agreements made at the Government's request in support of the prices policy and an extension of the powers to take action against restrictive trade practices where that was found necessary under the Stockholm Convention.

Trade Descriptions (No. 2) Bill

LORD SHACKLETON (Lord Privy Seal) introduced the Trade Descriptions (No. 2), Bill in the House of Lords on February 14. He said the Bill was identical with the Trade Descriptions Bill (see C. & D., November 11, 1967, p. 439) formerly the Consumer Protection Bill, which was passed by the House on February 5, but owing to a "nicety of procedure in another place", it was necessary to have a second Bill. The Bill passed by the House of Lords contained a provision for the Board of Trade to pay money into the Exchequer of Northern Ireland. This said Lord Shackleton, "therefore infringed the undoubted privilege of another place." The Bill was read a first time. first time.

LEGAL REPORTS

A Human Error

CHARGED at Barton, Lincs, magistrates' court recently with giving incorrect particulars on a packet of weed-killer, Joseph Bentley, Ltd., manufacturers, Barrow-on-Humber, were fined £10 after a plea of "not guilty" had been entered by the defence. The prosecution alleged that a weed-killer that was checked was found to contain an excess of sulphate of ammonia and too little phosphorus. For the defence it was stated that the parcel had not been prepared for dispatch, had not been moved from the premises, and had not been exposed for sale. Even had it been sold, a purchaser would have only lost a few pence. Mr. Harry Johnson (managing director) suggested that a human error had been made in the mixing of the weed-killer.

Damages for Thalidomide Babies

EACH of sixty-two "thalidomide babies" whose parents had sued the "thalidomide company that made and marketed the drug their mothers took during drug their indities took during pregnancy will get "very substantial" damages under terms of settlement of the actions, a High Court judge was told on February 19. The company, (Distillers Co. (Biochemicals), Ltd.), is to pay to each child 40 per cent. of the total damages to which they would have been entitled had their actions been tried and been wholly successful. Mr. D. Ackner, Q.C., on behalf of all the parents and children who had brought actions, told Mr. Justice Hinchcliffe: "Under the terms of settlement the damages payable to the infants will be substantial. If the actions had continued, the plaintiffs could have failed to recover a penny piece." The Court was told that in a number of cases the chemists and doctors who supplied or prescribed the drug under the trade name of Distaval or Tensival had been named as co-defendants, but that as it was now accepted that there was in law no basis for continuing the claims against them. Such claims would subject to the Court's approval, be discontinued. Mr. Justice Hinchcliffe said he had no hesitation in approving the settlement and added "This is a fair and just settlement. It would be folly to refuse such an offer." Mr. Ackner said that under the terms, all allegations of negligence against Distillers Co. (Riochemicals). Ltd., were "un-(Biochemicals), Ltd., were reservedly withdrawn." The would attempt to agree the damages payable in each case. If that were not possible, the figure would be deter-mined by the Court. When each case was agreed the Court's approval would have to be sought. Mr. Ackner said the costs of each action would be paid to ensure that nothing would be deducted by the legal aid authorities from the damages. Mr. M. Kerr, Q.C., for the Distillers Co. said the withdrawal of the negligence allegations was particularly important because of the reputations of the doctors and scientists who had assessed thalidomide on the company's behalf and who had always maintained that "these tragic events" were not foreseeable in the

then state of knowledge. In view of the inadequacy of the then existing statistics and the lack of knowledge of the causes of congenital malformations, the defendants had in 1962 made a grant of £250,000 to Edinburgh University for research. It had resulted in much useful work. The defendants had asked counsel to say that, when the matters resulting from the present settlement had been dealt with, they would be considering ways in which a substantial sum might be provided for the direct assistance of malformed children who did not benefit from the settlement.

COMPANY NEWS

Previous year's figures in parentheses

NORTHERN ASSOCIATED PHOTOFINISHERS, LTD., have removed to 76 Lower Bridge Street, Chester.

NATIONAL STARCH AND CHE-MICAL CORPORATION, New York, U.S.A.—Net sales for 1967 \$111.9m. (\$105.2m.); income, \$14.3m. (\$14.2m.) less taxes \$6.5m. (\$6.5m.).

BORAX HOLDINGS, LTD.—The offer of Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation, Ltd. (C. & D., January 13, p.29), to acquire all the capital of Borax (Holdings) has been declared unconditional,

NORCROS, LTD.—Sales in the year ded December 3, 1967, rose from ended December 3, 1967, rose from £26.8m. to a peak £28.2m. and trading profit from £3.1m. to £3.32m. Head office expenses were particularly heavy because of recruitment of central management and the pre-tax profit fell from £1.9m. to £1.88m. Dividend is unchanged at 20 per cent. After reduced tax the available profit was up from £965,000 to £1.05m.

J. BIBBY & SONS, LTD.—Group profit for 1967, before taxation, was £1,557,000 (£1,037,000). The increases attributed came predominantly from an improvement in efficiency; a reduction in operating costs and the servicing of working capital; animal feeds; and the N. Reich acquisition made on July 1, 1967, states the board. Tax charged is £643,000 (£447,000), somewhat alleviated by various remissions amounting to £73,000 gross before tax. External sales were up by £1m. to £50.7m. and the return on sales has improved from 2.2 per cent. to 3.3 per cent. Return on capital cmployed improved from 6.3 per cent. to 9.4 per cent. Recommended dividend for year is 9 per cent. and a one-for-one scrip issue is being recommended.

MONSANTO CHEMICALS, LTD. Group sales in 1967 increased to £28,922,968 (from £27,586,661) and income, before tax was 19 per cent. up at £2,916,216. Income after taxation rose by 7 per cent., after application of the higher (42½ per cent.) corporation tax rate. A second interim dividend of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is declared, making $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year (15 per cent.). Mr. J. C. Garrels (chairman) says that plans, outlined at the annual meeting, to alter the financial structure of the subsidiary, Australian Monsanto Chemicals (Australia), Ltd., had been implemented during the year as a result of which the Monsanto Chemicals, Ltd., equity in the Australian company declined from 58 to 45 per cent.

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUS-TRIES, LTD.—Group sales to external customers in 1967 rose to £979m. (from £885m. in 1966). Group profit was £101m. (£86m.) and taxation £38m. (£29m.). Group profit attributable to parent company was £58m. (£52m.). Export sales amounted to £166m., f.o.b. (£156m.) and the increase would have been greater but for reductions in selling prices. The main reason for the improvement in group profit was the substantial saving in manufacturing costs in the U.K. In addition, group profit before taxation includes £4 million for exchange profits arising on trading balances at the date of devaluation of sterling. A final dividend of 1s. 6d. is recommended making an unchanged total for year of 2s. 6d. -Lord Beeching (a deputy chairman), is resigning from the board on March 31.

BUSINESS CHANGES

MR. K. H. COOKSON, M.P.S., has acquired the pharmacy of Mr. G. H. Cowles, M.P.S., 10 Market Place, Warminster, Wilts. Mr. Cowles, who is retiring from business, opened the pharmacy in 1932.

J. M. GRAY, LTD., 37 Main Street, Bangor, co. Down, Northern Ireland, are closing down, and Mr. I. Well-wood, M.P.S.N.I., is joining Mr. I. J. Boal, M.P.S.N.I., 37 Queens Parade,

Bangor.

APPOINTMENTS

Directors

WILLOWS FRANCIS, LTD.—
Messrs. A. T. Crompton and R. Featherstone have joined the board following the take-over of Wigglesworth, Ltd.

Executives

EVER-READY PERSONNA have appointed Mr. R. Dallow their director marketing.

DREAMLAND ELECTRICAL AP-PLIANCES, LTD., have appointed Mr. J. Pashler to take charge of their factory at Hythe, Kent.

International

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISA-TION.—Dr. M-G. Candau has been reappointed director-general for further period of five years.

Research

THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUN-CIL has appointed Dr. S. G. Owen, F.R.C.P., to be its second secretary. Dr. Owen replaces Dr. J. A. B. Gray who was recently appointed to succeed Sir Harold Himsworth as the Council's secretary. Dr. Owen's work has been primarily in the field of cardiovascular and thyroid disease and he has also been closely concerned with the application of computer techniques in clinical medicine.

PERSONALITIES

MR. J. R. STRUTHERS, representa-tive for Richard Hudnut, Ltd., in the Glasgow area has retired after thirtyfive years with the company, all of which were spent in Scotland. At a celebration dinner given in his honour recently in London, Mr. Struthers was awarded a special "Salesman of the Year" cup by Mr. W. J. Curtis (managing director, Richard Hudnut, Ltd.).

DR. FRED WRIGLEY (a deputy chairman, Wellcome Foundation, Ltd., and chairman, Calmic, Ltd.), has been appointed a member of the North-west Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. He will continue to serve as a member of the board of governors of University College Hospital, London. Born in Manchester, Dr. Wrigley qualified as a pharmacist at Manchester University and returned there later to study medicine.

DR. T. SHIOIRI who graduated from the University of Tokyo as a Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 1959 and obtained the degree of Doctor of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 1967, is to spend two years carrying out research work with Professor A. H. R. Barton at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London on a fellowship financed by the Wellcome Trust. His work will concern the biosynthesis of the steroid side chain.

MR. H. H. DUCKETT, M.P.S., group pharmacist to the Medway and



Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for fifteen years has been n a m e d as mayor-elect of C h a t h a m. Alderman H. Duckett, who has been on the Chatham Council for nearly four years, was previously chief pharmacist at

pharmacist at the Margate General Hospital. He served his apprenticeship with a Highbridge, Somerset, firm and received his college training at Bristol.

MR. A. H. SCOURFIELD, a member of the executive staff, Sangers, Ltd., retires on February 28. Mr. Scourfield joined May Roberts & Co., Clerkenwell Road, London, in 1929. Mr. Scourfield has been in the wholesale business for thirty-nine years. In his early days, he recalls, the bulk of proprietary medicines were uniformly priced at 1s. 3d. and 2s. 6d., and a good pricing clerk would price 75 per cent. of an order from memory, there being no complications such as purchase tax, and prices remained the same for years. Many more orders were in customers' hand writing, and one was apt to receive an order for "a black man's bathing hat" or "a feeding bottle for a baby with a hole each end." Before the Government prohibited it in the 1939-45 war, vans would travel enormous mileages, delivering from London to Bristol, for example, three times a week. As a result, orders would be for larger quantities and from good accounts would often comprise up to twenty pages. In those days boys left school at the end of the school year in which their fourteenth birthday fell. "We would employ up to twenty boys, since there was no lack of applicants. Most

of them would start as messenger boys, collecting special orders. If they were suitable, they would then be promoted to van boys and eventually would become drivers or, as warehouse boys, progress eventually to checkers. The girls would come into the office and there be taught clerical work 'from scratch.' Some became telephone order clerks, others typists, etc. In that way they had a sound knowledge of the business and many stayed the whole of their working life."

DEATHS

HOPKINS.—On February 4, Mr. Claude Augustus Hopkins, M.P.S., formerly of 106 High Street, Putney, London, S.W.15. Mr. Hopkins qualified in 1902.

HUGHES.—On January 26, Mrs. Vida Ruth Hughes, M.P.S., 39 Sandhurst Drive, Penn, Wolverhampton, Staffs, Mrs. Hughes qualified in 1960.

TRADE NOTES

A Cut in Price.—Gillette Safety Razor Co., Great West Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, have cut ls. from the price of the refill cartridge of their Techmatic razor.

Stocks Exhausted.—Armour Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Hampton Park, Eastbourne, Sussex, state that stocks of Chymar ointment are exhausted. The product is deleted from their list.

A Spelling Corrected. — One of the sunglass models of W. H. Titcomb is the Echtenia (not as incorrectly spelt in the company's advertisement in the Sunglass Supplement this week.)

Still Regionalised. — Procter & Gamble, Ltd., point out that their "Head & Shoulders" shampoo (lotion and cream) is at present available only in the area covered by the Southern Television.

Return for Credit.—Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Nottingham, have discontinued Dytransin (ibufenac) and no further supplies are available. The company states that all stocks in both original and opened packs should be returned to wholesalers for full credit. Opened packs should be labelled with their residual contents.

A 100-mil Size.—E. R. Squibb & Sons, Regal House, Twickenham, Middlesex, arc making their Mysteclin syrup (tetracycline hydrochloride plus Fungilin (Squibb amphotericin-B)), available in 100-mil bottles in addition to the present 60-mil bottle. The new pack provides a five-day course of treatment for children requiring broad-spectrum antibiotic therapy.

Unit Packs.—Johnson & Johnson (Gt. Britain), Ltd., Slough, Bucks, have discontinued the practice of counting and invoicing their products in dozens and twelfths in favour of a new unit of measure—a unit pack. The company state that although it would be impractical to have a standard number of items within all packs, for any one pack contents are pre-determined and constant. Invoice and dispatch notes have been completely redesigned and indicate clearly the number of packs and pack contents.

NEVELL.—On February 5, Mr. Henry Leonard Nevell, M.P.S., 23 Churchill Road, St. Albans, Herts. Mr. Nevell qualified in 1921.

PRYDE. — In January, Mr. Wilfred Leslie Pryde, M.P.S., 3 Oldfield Close, Heswall, Wirral, Ches. Mr. Pryde qualified in 1924.

ROGERS.—On January 23, Mr. John Wallis Rogers, M.P.S., Glebe Cottage, Hooe, nr. Battle, Sussex. Mr. Rogers qualified in 1912.

THOMAS.—On February 14, Mr. George Ditton Thomas, M.P.S., The Dittons, Carlton Road, Horsell, Woking, Surrey. Mr. Thomas qualified in 1927 and was the former proprietor of the Ottershaw pharmacy, Goldsworthy Road, Woking, Surrey.

WILSON.—On February 2, Mr. Robert Wallace Ritchie Wilson, M.P.S., 29 Polwarth Gardens, Hyndland, Glasgow, W.2. Mr. Wilson qualified in 1915.

Repair Service. — Polaroid (U.K.), Ltd., P.O. Box 69, Huggins Lane, Hatfield, Herts, have found it necessary, owing to a substantial increase in their Polaroid sunglass sales, which in turn has increased the volume of Polaroid repairs by about 30 per cent. each year, to expand their repair facility in order to provide a better service. To minimise delay, the company ask that all repairs be sent direct to Polaroid Repair Service, c/o Polarizers (United Kingdom), Ltd., 9A Pinner Road, Bushey, Watford, Herts. Watford 29985. The aim is to give a seven-day service.

Bonus Offers

R. P. DRUGS, LTD., 332 Meanwood Road, Leeds, 7, Yorks. Oxydon 1200 invoiced as 1000.

ROBINSON & SONS, LTD., Chesterfield, Derbys. Orders for packs of ten received up to and including March 1, for immediate dispatch, sent at the preincrease price of 37s. per case of twenty-four packets. Packs of forty: Six invoiced as five till March 31.

BAYER PRODUCTS Co., Winthrop House, Surbiton, Surrey. Panadol Ready-display counter unit containing thirty-six 2s. 3d. and twelve 6s. 9d. packs at a reduction of 9s. on normal trade price. Panadol elixir, 60 mils. twelve invoiced as eleven on minimum order for 1 doz. Actal.—Ready-display counter unit containing twelve 3s. and six 5s. 6d. packs at a reduction of 5s. 9d. on normal trade price.

Premium Offers

Cussons, Sons & Co., Ltd., Kersal Vale, Manchester. Imperial Leather soap (pink or ivory). Threepence off either size.

Competitions

J. & J. COLEMAN, LTD., Norwich. Robinson's baby foods. In "Silver Spoon" contest (first prize National Development Bonds of £500 for baby), winner was Mrs. Maxine Broadbent, Bracknell, Berks.

INFORMATION WANTED

The Editor would appreciate information about:

Diabrex contact lens solution

NEW PRODUCTS AND PACKS

PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALITIES

Wart Treatment. — Dermal Laboratories, Ltd., 247 Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.l., have introduced a new treatment for warts, Callusolve. Intended to be used primarily on plantar warts, it contains 25 per cent. of a keratolytic agent, alkyldimethylbenzylammonium halide dibromide. The makers claim that, using Callusolve, warts may now be destroyed safely without resorting to caustic chemicals or physical removal. The product is especially suitable for the treatment of multiple and mosiac warts. Pack is a bottle of 10 mils, which is supplied complete with spatula

complete with spatula.

For Treating Scabies. — Stafford-Miller, Ltd., 166 Great North Road, Hatfield, Herts, have launched a new speciality Quellada lotion for the treatment of scabies and pediculosis. Quellada is based on gamma benzene hexachloride. During extensive clinical trials it has proved effective in eradicating scabies infestation and human pediculosis with a single application. The product is a pleasantly perfumed lotion that does not produce skin irritation or dermatitis and may be used in the presence of secondary infections. It is being extensively promoted to all general practitioners and specialists from March 1. Quellada is also suitable for counter prescribing in cases of head lice. Packs are a bottle of 55 mils and a dispensing pack of 450 mils.

FOODS

Starch Reduced Crispbread.—Following a successful test marketing in the Tyne Tees television area in 1967,



Energen Foods Co., Ltd., Birling Road, Ashford, Kent, are "going national" with their new starch-reduced savoury crispbrcad, claimed the first ever. The product has best quality parmesan cheese baked into it, and is light and crunchy in texture. It is packed in three individual wraps of five crispbreads so as to keep the contents really fresh for the user.

COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES

A New Pink Variant. — Cussons, Sons & Co., Ltd., Kersal Vale, Manchester, have introduced a new variety of their Imperial Leather soap in both toilet and bath sizes.

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES

New products from several manufacturers

A Six-month Pack.—For the convenience of prescribers and patients, a new multi-pack containing six wallets of Norinyl-1 ultra-low-dose conception regulator is now available from Syntex Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., St. Ives House, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berks. Each wallet contains twenty-one Norinyl-1 tablets.

Norethisterone With Ethinyl Oestradiol.—Schering Chemicals, Ltd., pharmaceutical division introduced on February 19 a low-dose oral contraceptive, Minovlar, containing norethisterone acetate and ethinyl oestradiol. Low-substance content, world-wide usage and packaging economies have enabled the company to market Minovlar in a special presentation, the multipack (three months' supply), at a low price. There is also a "starter" pack of one month's supply.

Low-dose Oral Contraceptive.—
Ortho-Novin 1/80 tablets, newly introduced by Ortho Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., Saunderton, Bucks, present in each l mgm. of norethisterone and 0.08 mgm. of mestrasol. Claims made for them are maximum effectiveness with no compensating increase in potency; minimum side effects through optimal hormone balance; and accurate administration (the Dialpak "remembers") one tablet is taken daily at bedtime

for twenty-one days, followed by a tablet-free interval of seven days. First course should start on fifth day of a menstrual cycle. Primary mode of action is the suppression of ovulation through inhibition of pituitary gonadotrophins. Secondary effects render the endometrium less favourable to implantation and the cervical mucus more hostile to penetration by spermatozoa. Ortho-Novin 1/80 is available in Dialpak tablet "dispenser" of twenty-one tablets. The makers state that most women experience no side effects, even during the first cycle of use. A few may experience nausea or headache during the first one or two cycles, those symptoms disappearing rapidly in subsequent cycles. A small number of patients may have intermenstrual breakthrough bleeding.

Approved by Planning Association.—C-Quens 21 is the trade mark adopted by Eli Lilly & Co., Ltd., Basingstoke, Hants, for what is claimed to be the first sequential oral contraceptive to be approved by the Family Planning Association. British trials are said to have shown the product to be exceptionally free from side effects. Each wallet contains fourteen yellow tablets of mestranol 100 microgm., and 7 pink tablets combining the oestrogen mestranol 100 microgm with progestogen chlormadinone acetate 1'5 mgm.

Perfumed Moisture Bath. — "Neverbefore has the total look of beauty been more important. Make-up, hair and fashion all work together with the body, making one flowing complete silhouette." With this total beauty in mind, Elizabeth Arden, Ltd., 25 Old Bond Street, London, W.l, have launched "Moisture Bath," a contemporary body lotion scented in either Mémoire Chérie or Blue Grass. "Moisture Bath" combines the lasting nature of a scented perfumed lotion with the moisturising qualities of an effective body cream. It should be smoothed lavishly over the entire body.

Matched Colour Eye-shadows. — Lentheric, Ltd., 17 Old Bond Street, London, W.1, have launched two new "twin-matched" pressed powder eye-shadows (one pearlised) called "Sea Greens" and three new pearlised eyelincrs. The two shades are "Deepwater" and "Sea Haze." Used together they achieve the "wide-awake look." Pearly "Sea Haze" adds glamour for evening, yet is subtle enough for daytime use also; its subtle effects are intensified when it is worn over "Deepwater"; or "Deepwater" may be used for shadowing and "Sea Haze" for highlighting.

A Quintet of Newcomers.—Revlon International Corporation, 86 Brook Street, London, W.l, have launched a new "Touch and Glow" matt make-up that gives "flawless, delicate coverage" and is available in eight shades. A new liquid eyeliner, Lustre Liner, is in black, brown, black-brown, and ivory shades, the first three for close to the lashes lining and the fourth for extra accent above the basic line (a specially tapered sable brush is available separately). Moon Drops moisture cream is a formulation of moisturisers, oils and vitamins. Three bright fashion shades have been added in Moon lipstick and matching crystalline nail enamel, namely Blazer Pink ("perfect with all the blues"), Mister Melon ("ideal for greens and oranges") and Copper Cane ("a bold burnished beige"). Finally, cuticle gelee is a proteinised cuticle remover in applicator-tipped tube.



LIPSTICK "SENSATION": New Colour swirfs lipstick of Lentheric, Ltd., 17 Old Bond Street, London, W.1 (C. & D., February 3, p. 99).



"BUBBLY" DOLLS: Lot 19 of André Phillippe, Ltd., 71 Gowan Avenue, London, S.W.6, is a bubble-bath powder packed in six attractive models, as illustrated.

SUNDRIES

Improved Tampons in Economy Pack.—Cameo tampons, now more absorbent, are in a pack with "more feminine and shelf appeal." A new "economy" pack of forty is now available in addition to the pack of ten. New prices obtain. Makers are Robinson & Sons, Ltd., Chesterfield.

Electric Underblankets For 1968.-For 1968, Dreamland Electrical Appliances, Ltd., Shipyard Estate, Hythe, Hants, are introducing their widest ever range of electric blankets (four-teen, in six models). The blankets are all-British in design and manufacture. In the top models are incorporated three new element systems and all, including those in the lowest price bracket, are made by the company's "safety-seal" electronic welding process. The new Dreamland Brocade/Courtelle covered underblanket is finished in a crimson and gold brocade covering on one side, and fleecy Courtelle on the other. It is available in single bed, double-bed with single control and double-bed models, the last with separate "his and her" controls. The bedside control unit is infinitely variable to provide any level of warmth, and a diode protection circuit with automatic cut-out device ensures that the electricity supply to the blanket is switched off if careless misuse causes local overheating. The dualconcentric double-insulated element is welded within special foam. A new four-heat underblanket is in a design which, say the makers, cannot be

achieved by any other manufacturing process. The blanket, rose pink one side and sky blue the other, incorporates an exclusive triple-element construction which the user can switch to low, medium or full heat over the whole bed area, or medium heat on the main sleeping area and full heat at the lower section for ex(ra foot warmth. The covers are in Lantor fabric, which remains soft to the touch and retains warm air within its fibres longer than conventional materials.

OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS

Optical Instruments.—An international selection of optical aids are to be found in the catalogue issued by L'Optic Modern, Ltd., 71 Great Portland Street, London, W.1. The instruments include a range of Empire, Japanese and West German binoculars that sell from £8 a pair upwards. The items have been specially chosen for finish, weight, balance and light-gathering power, and the models are most competitively priced. The company also offer a range of magnifying glasses, readers and compasses, as well as microscopes and opera glasses. Retailers wishing to extend their range of optical lines are invited to write to the company.

For Close-ups.—Pyser-Britex (Swift), Ltd., Fircroft Way, Edenbridge, Kcnt, sole agents in Great Britain and Europe for Swift Instruments, Inc., U.S.A. (manufacturing in the Swift-Kai factories in Japan) offer the Swift-Trilyte, described as the first roof-prism binocu-

lar from Japan. Slender, compact design is achieved by use of a modified roof prism which, together with the magnesium die-cast body, ensures ultra-lightweight, dust, shock- and corrosion-resistant binoculars. Special features include internal focusing centre-spindle, retractable eye-cups for spectacle wearers, and fully coated optical system. The seven by thirty-five model has a field view of 393 ft. at 1,000 yd. and weighs only 18.7 oz. The Trilyte focuses down to 12 ft.



ONE OF ABOUT A DOZEN: From the Scoperange. (Highgate Optical Co., 184 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.)



FROM JAPAN: The Swift Trilyte 7 x 35 with case. (Pyser-Britex (Swift), Ltd., Fercroft Way, Edenbridge, Kent.)





FOR INDOORS AND OUTDOORS: Left, Luxostar gilt or chromium finish theatre binocular. Right, Wide-angle Noctovist 8 x 30. (Grafton Optical Co., Ltd., 18 Worship Street, London, E.C.2.)



For Retailer, Wholesaler and Manufacturer
ESTABLISHED 1859

Published weekly at 28 Essex Street, Strand, London, W.C.2

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Over the First Hurdle

THE Medicines Bill, after a debate that required 212 columns of Hansard to report, emerged from its Second Reading and now goes forward to the Committee stage. On the whole it had a relatively smooth passage, and the Minister received tributes from many quarters, some unexpected. Many other Bills have come in for harsher opposition at the same stage. Indeed it might almost be said that the only damning it had was the faint praise which Mr. Michael English accused "Hon. Gentlemen opposite" of voicing.

One reason was, no doubt, the difficulty of attacking clauses empowering the Minister to make regulations later. It will be the regulations themselves that come in for attack. Another reason was that Second Reading debates tend to become a softening-up or claim-staking preliminary to the hard knocks that are to follow when the Bill comes to be discussed clause by clause.

On that basis it is possible to discern which parts of the Bill are going to be most strongly contested. Opposition on one or two clauses may even cancel out because they are clearly going to come in for attack from opposite points of view, namely that they are too drastic or that they are not drastic enough. An example is the clause concerned with sales of medicine from vendingmachines. Some members, such as Mr. Peter Mills, showed that they would fight to keep controls minimal, or remove them altogether. Others, such as Mr. Arthur Blenkinsop, will be pressing for effective curbs on vending-machine sales. There were those members who spoke for the industry, like Mr. Nigel Fisher, most of whose contribution was taken up with the Sainsbury Committee's report (no doubt to prevent any more of it from getting into the Bill), but who came round to the Bill itself for long enough to commend a Medicines Commission answerable to the Minister, Or like Colonel Beamish (incidentally both used the same "quote" from the Minister of Labour: "I do wish so many of the comrades would stop equating profits with incest or lechery"), who named three "pressures" that would have to be resisted, namely pressure to abolish brand names, pressure to erode patent protection, and pressure to introduce standard cost returns for drugs. Protagonist of abolishing brand names and excepting Crown purchases from patents protection was Mr. Lawrence Pavitt, who also wanted the Medicines Commission to be the licensing authority, whereas the "industrialists" are happy that the Minister should have the decisive power. The Pharmaceutical Society's points and questions were well put by Mr. Richards but on the other hand. Mr. David Crouch and others made it evident that they would hotly contest any limitation on the advertising of medicines or narrowing of the general-sale list that would exclude currently advertised products.

The nearest to any evidence of "official" opposition came from the remarks of Mr. Maurice Macmillan, the Conservatives' "shadow" health minister. His concern was with the status under the Bill of the MacGregor Committee; the powers of the Medicines Commission, which he said went beyond the ambit of the Bill itself; prices charged in pharmacies, which he said were higher in countries where sales of medicines were almost wholly restricted to pharmacies; the dangers of substituting bureaucracy for "Dunlop"; the licensing appeals precedure; and the Minister's own powers under the Bill, which would become, he said, "formidable indeed." It may be significant that Mr. Macmillan said at one point "I do not think that they [medicines] are so different that they should never be advertised," and that he hoped the Minister would ensure "that everything that is now freely on sale, with the possible exception of one or two products . . . will stay on the initial list as of right and that new additions are made as occasions come forward."

On the whole, however, pharmacists may reflect "So far so good" and hope that their spokesmen will devise appropriate defences for the parts of the Bill they regard as most valuable. At the same time they will be looking to those who are elected to serve their interests to provide ammunition quickly to enable them to attack the less satisfactory aspects of the Bill before the Committee stage in three or four weeks' time.

Three Years to D Day

Another reminder that decimal currency is coming to the United Kingdom was provided last week by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his reply to a written question in Parliament on February 15, when he gave the actual date of the change-over (see page 175). Whether by design or by coincidence, Mr. Jenkins' reply was timed to precede "D day" by precisely three years. February 15, 1971, may seem a long way off at the moment, but it is by no means too soon for businesses to begin accustoming themselves to the new coinage, especially when the system chosen will pose more difficulties to the public than would one based on a 10s. unit, as adopted by the South African, Australian and New Zealand Governments. The new fivepenny and tenpenny coins have their exact equivalents in the current shilling and florin, but there are no precise equivalents for the others.

When decimalisation comes there is bound to be a levelling up of prices, since the smallest coin (½d.) will be valued at 1'2d. in the present currency. For manufacturers there will be much repackaging to be done and for the pharmacist in general practice cash registers, adding machines and the occasional coinoperated machines will have to be adjusted. There will be no general scheme of compensation, though the Decimal Currency Board is required to examine claims from those who regard themselves as special cases justifying an exception to the Government's declared general policy, and the Board may also make recommendations. So there will be, during the opening period, extra work involved in simultaneously handling the old and new currencies.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland

MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

THE free scheme for diabetic patients operated by the Department of Health was referred to by Mr. V. G. MCELWEE at the monthly meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland held in Dublin on February 13. He said that the local authorities in co. Donegal refused to allow patients in the lower income group to obtain their supplies of insulin and oher diabetic requirements from community pharmacies but insisted to Donegal Pharmacists' Association that they must obtain them at the local dispensary.

THE REGISTRAR (Mr. J. G. Coleman) said that the Government Information Bureau had been reported as having stated that medical card holders suffering from diabetes were entitled to obtain their requirements at community pharmacies. MISS L. CUNNIFFE confirmed that in Galway lower income group patients obtained free supplies in general pharmacies without difficulty and Mr. J. P. O'DONNELL said that in Mayo a number of medical card holders went to the chemists for their diabetic requirements.

MR. McElwee: "I am glad to know that because the scheme which we have drawn up with the company manager comes up for revision shortly."

The matter had arisen from a letter from Mr. P. Carroll, (Irish Diabetic Association (Dublin region) seeking permission to hold a meeting in the College of Pharmacy. Efforts were being made to start a national association and a number of diabetic specialists had attended a meeting for that purpose in 1967. Mr. Carroll thanked the many pharmacists who had displayed notices of that meeting in their windows. It was decided to inform Mr. Carroll that, if facilities at the college were suitable, the Council would be willing to allow the meeting to be held.

Ban on Chlorinated Hydrocarbons

A letter was received from Mr. D. Moloney of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries referring to the use of sheep dips containing chlorinated hydrocarbons (dieldrin and aldrin) against sheep scab and blow fly strike and informing the Council that in view of the level of residue of those substances found in the kidney fat of sheep and lambs on slaughter in a recent survey the Minister had withdrawn approval for the use of such dips for the purpose of the eradication of sheep scab under the Sheep Dipping Order as from January 1, 1968. Mr. Moloney enclosed a catalogue of the dips remaining on the approved list as from that date. Following consultations between the Department and the manufacturers in August 1967, the latter had agreed to discontinue production of dips containing chlorinated hydrocarbons but had requested in the case of fly dips that a further period should be allowed to enable them to dispose of stocks already manufactured. The Minister had agreed to the continued sale of fly dips containing chlorinated hydrocarbons up to June 30, 1968.

THE PRESIDENT (Mr. M. L. Cashman) appealed to all pharmacists to co-operate fully in observing the new regulations. Mr. McElwee pointed out that the withdrawal of official approval did not apply to horticultural chemicals.

On February 10, the assistant registrar (Mr. Cahill) had written to the secretary of the Department of Health informing him that the Society had acquired a system devised by Mr. C. McArdle, Birmingham General Hospital, for the rapid identification of solid dosage forms. Because of limitation of space, personnel and finance the Society was unable to provide as comprehensive a service as it would wish and perhaps the Department might be interested in co-operating with the Society to establish the service on a broader basis.

Following a letter from the Department of Industry

and Commerce read at the January meeting of the Council (see C. & D., January 27, p. 82) it was stated that discussions had since taken place between representatives of the Society and the Irish Drug Association and officials of the Department about the possible provision of a pharmaceutical service on a rota basis. Further discussions would be held.

Arising out of the Law Committee report, MR. T. R. MILLER asked if a pharmacist who had not paid his retention fee was permitted to practise. THE REGISTRAR replied that no time was lost in contacting any practising pharmacist who had not paid the fee.

MR. J. P. O'DONNELL reported that he had written to the general secretary of the International Pharmaceutical Federation of the position of pharmacy in European Economic Community countries and was awaiting a reply.

A letter from F.I.P. pointed out that the 29th International Congress of Pharmaceutical Sciences would be held in London, September 8-13. Details were available from Mr. E. L. Robins, Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1.

(To be concluded)

Drug Share Movements BUYING SPREE TAILS-OFF

THE share-buying spree in evidence at the time of the last review three months ago was maintained with full vigour for a number of weeks, but latterly investors have begun to take a cool hard look at Budget prospects. Because they did not like what they saw in the crystal ball a larger-than-recently amount of selling, in a market of greatly diminished buying activity, caused jobbers to mark prices down. Few, if any, in the City doubt that the Chancellor's proposals on March 19 will be other than tough, but there is a belief that the medicine will not be quite the bitter pill that observers in some quarters had been fearing—and in others forecasting. If, however, devaluation is to succeed, the path ahead cannot be seen to be an easy one.

A good measure of buying interest was focused on the pharmaceutical section of the market. Although that, too, was caught up in the easier trend, a fair-sized list of substantial gains on balance was recorded. For example, Glaxo met with steady persistent support and in a market short of Glaxo shares the price zoomed ahead to around 78s. 6d. At that level they encountered a patch of profit-taking and at the close they were showing a net gain of 4s, at 71s, 6d. The announcement from the Beecham board-room of a one-for-two scrip issue took the market by surprise; not unnaturally there was a favourable response price-wise; the shares jumped 2s, to 54s, 6d., but at the close had reacted to around 52s., leaving them 4s. 6d. up on balance. Steady buying in a market none too well supplied with them lifted Reckitt & Colman 1s. 6d. at 39s. Smith & Nephew were wanted and in a one-way market improved by fourpence half penny to 13s. 6d. Boots Pure Drug reflected moderate support, with a rise to 23s, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d., but remained under overall the cloud of the possible effects of the reintroduction of prescription charges; later they were virtually unaltered on balance at around 22s, 6d. The price of Bellair Cosmetics shares was lifted to 20s, 6d, and made subsequent progress, closing 3s. up on balance at 24s. 9d. Gala were bought and moved ahead to 52s. 6d.—a rise of 3s. 6d. Moderate buying in a thin market lifted Stevenson & Howell threepence at 16s. 6d.

The improved trading results of Imperial Chemical Industries, declared on February 15, sent the share value up 1s. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. to the peak figure (for 1967-68) of 56s. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

"The Bill", Finance and Science

TOPICS AT MANCHESTER AREA CONFERENCE

OPPORTUNITY to ask questions on the Medicines Bill was given to nearly 200 members of the Pharmaceutical Society attending an all-day regional conference at Belle Vue, Manchester,

on February 18.

THE PRESIDENT referred to the Bill in his opening address. He said that the importance of the Bill for phar-macy could not be over-estimated. Its influence upon the profession, and upon its professional progress, might last well into the next century. Mr. Aldington continued "... speaking for the Society, I give you the firm assurance that we intend to make the most of our opportunity to serve the public interest, and also to serve the professional interest of pharmacy. I don't apologise to any audience for proclaiming our professional interest, for the truth is that pharmacy's interest and the public interest are invariably identical.

Council to Meet Specially

A special meeting of the Society's Council had been arranged to examine the Bill in detail and to decide the amendments recommended to both the Government and the House of Commons. "Although I must not anti-cipate the decisions that Council will come to, I can say now that we shall seek answers to a number of important questions, and we shall want some of the answers written into the Bill. We want ambiguities removed, and we want errors corrected. We must not overlook the fact that it is largely an enabling Bill, providing power for administrative action at a later date. We cannot afford to assume the good intentions of all future Ministers of Health." The future Ministers of Health." The majority of the 119 Clauses reflected the Society's philosophy and policy— "Although we applaud the Government's acceptance of the principle that medicines should be obtainable from pharmacies only, there is obviously a need for us to ensure that the principle is not jeopardised by the granting of "exceptions" en bloc. In his Second Reading speech, the Minister of Health reaffirmed that "there will be a general sale list of pre-packed medicines which can be sold at any shop." And those medicines would be listed in Orders made by the Minister, after he had taken the advice of the appropriate Committee and consulted with interested organisations. "In my view" said Mr. Aldington "and I am confident that Council will confirm me in this, each proposed exception should be considered separately, and it should be listed for general sale only if there is an indisputable case for this to be done . . . and now, to give you an idea of the sort of thing we are up against, the sort of arguments being used against the principle, I quote Mr. David Crouch, M.P. for Canterbury, who also spoke in the Second Reading debate.

"He said: 'In suggesting a practical solution for this general sales list, I echo that made by the Member for Farnham (Mr. Maurice Macmillan). It is that those products that are currently sold freely outside pharmacies should, for a start, automatically come on the

general sales list . . . '"

Mr. Aldington said: "That is a view with which we totally disagree. And I assure you that our view has been put very strongly, and will be again, at the Ministry of Health. He continued, "Mr. Crouch also said: 'I want to draw to the Minister's attention the fact that there is a consumer need for a broad scale of availability of the household medicines to which I have referred (simple remedies for indigestion, headaches, coughs, colds, constipation, multi-vitamin pills and glucose drinks). We have no evidence of injury suffered by the public as a result of the sale of such medicines by a wide range of

Mr. Aldington commented: "For someone who is supposed to know something about the subject, to make a statement like that is a regrettable state of affairs. We have every evidence! And we intend to bring it again to the attention of the Minister.

"But for a member of Parliament to make such a statement is regrettable. This is the sort of thing we are up against, and it is up to every one of us to make sure there is no complacency

among us in meeting it.

Shops permitted to sell "general sale list" medicines should be registered. There might be medicines which, after experience of their use, were found to be harmful, and the public interest might require them to be withdrawn immediately. Without a register of outlets, there could be no guarantee that all stocks had been withdrawn.

Members would have noticed that Mr. Ivor Richard, M.P., put to the Commons some of the points that are concerning the Society. And in the debate he drew from the Minister an assurance that there was to be specific exemption for pharmacies from the manufacturing licence in respect of drugs which pharmacists dispensed. "We value that asurance and, as I say, we shall seek more assurances as the Bill progresses."

Work of Science Department

PROFESSOR A. H. BECKETT then department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.
He began by describing scribed the work of the Society's Dethe began by describing in detail the work of the Society's library, the production of "Martindale," the British Pharmaceutical Codex, British Na Veterinary Codex, and the British National Formulary. He stressed the value of the work of the Society's laboratories in playing a responsible rôle collaborating with Government departments and enabling the Society to "negotiate in work at a scientific level."

The Society, through the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, kept in contact with the schools of pharmacy, each of which had an important part

to play in current research.
MR. J. TOMLINSON, Manchester, noted that Professor Beckett had said the

Society's laboratories were "reasonably well equipped." Would he enlarge upon that? Professor Beckett said the laboratories were satisfactory for the job they were doing at present. If the Society undertook further responsibilities under the Medicines Bill, further equipment would be needed. He agreed with Mr. Stearne, Manchester, that there were gaps in current knowledge con-cerning the "final action" of drugs, and also upon the effect of formulation on their availability. There was also a lack of knowledge concerning older drugs. In that field pharmacists could make a great contribution.

If the Society was to speak authoritatively it must "speak from a position of strength in a field where we have developed this knowledge."

A member from Salford referred to the content of the syllabus for training, and asked if the Society's Council could exert its influence to cut down the obsolete training in pharmacognosy. PROFESSOR BECKETT pointed out the Society had still a key rôle to play to ensure that courses were of the right character and content. He thought there could be some changes. There had to be more emphasis on "biophar-maceuticals," in which field the pharmacist, because of his knowledge, was not only the protector of the public but also the protector of the doctor "where he is most vulnerable.

On refresher courses, a questioner was told that the Society had an important part to play. When MR. G. SPENCER, Gatley, suggested that, in the future, members should not have to bear the whole financial burden of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, ALDINGTON said that the Council had not considered asking others to contri-bute. "That would be a major policy change." When Mr. Leuty, Manchester, asked if the Council was aware what some pharmacists outside London did in the matter of continued self-educa-tion, THE PRESIDENT replied, "of course we do." The Council was happy to advise branches on such matters. The development of medical centres was proving helpful in post-graduate educa-tion. The Council wanted pharmacists to be full members in such centres, and the Society could give much helpful advice on the subject.

A Blackpool member who asked what effect degree courses had had on the membership of the Society was told by Professor Beckett that steps were being taken at under-graduate level to ensure the necessary contact with the

Society.

MR. F. C. BAINES, Stockport, asked if it would serve any useful purpose to donate modern text books to the Society in view of the speaker's description of the "bulging library." DR. CAPPER replied "Yes"—"If we haven't got them it would certainly help us." Even if they had copies it might also be useful to have the extra ones. Pro-FESSOR BECKETT interposed to point out that alternatively there was a need in the developing countries for such textbooks. It would be useful if such gifts could be made through the Society,

After MR, H. BURLINSON had thanked all who had contributed to "Martindale," he said he had noted a reference in the Medicines Bill to the "taking over" of the British Pharmacopoeia. Did the Society know of the Ministry aims concerning Martindale? Mr. ALDINGTON assured him there was no question of the Government's taking over Martindale. "It is the private property of the Society.

DR. C. MELVILLE wanted to know if there had been any change in Council policy concerning recognition of the training of graduates carried out in some schools of pharmacy. Professor BECKETT believed there had been a slight change of opinion over the years. The current feeling was that such training had been too readily accepted. He pointed out that a girl student could be registered, then work "in pharma-cology". She could then leave to marry and later decide to enter generalpractice pharmacy without having made a preparation for a member of the public. If an accident occurred in such circumstances the Society might be in

a difficult position.
MR. T. D. CLARKE, Manchester, pointed out that some schools arranged for students to spend periods of four weeks in hospital and other pharmacies, and asked if such arrangements would not get over the type of difficulty mentioned by Professor Beckett, Mr. Aldington referred to the North Metropolitan Branch scheme of collaborating with the School of Pharmacy, London University. Under the scheme 100 final-year students would pay regular visits to pharmacies, "getting the atmosphere of general practice." Mr. BURLINSON: "What Manchester thinks today..." PROFESSOR BECKETT agreed that any scheme that helped the student to be associated with pharmacy was to be commended, but he had some reservations "because it is not mandatory."

The afternoon session began with an account of the work of the Society's Finance and General Purposes Committee by Mr. H. STEINMAN (treasurer), and Mr. Aldington gave a prepared statement on the Bill.

Discussion on Bill

MR. T. W. STEARNE, Manchester, referred to the fact that doctors were "withdrawing to large groups" often 'withdrawing to large groups" difficult for public access "leaving the Proprietary Association of Great Britain to take over." Mrs. ESTELLE LEIGH, Aughton, told the audience that she had been present in the House of Commons to hear the second reading of the Medicines Bill. It showed up vividly the low opinion some Members of Parliament had of pharmacists and also indicated the strong pressures that were likely to be encountered "in Committee."

All were in agreement that nothing should be done by members of the Society without direction from headquarters, but "we do want information and we want it quickly." She could not agree that there had been any clarification of the pharmacists' situa-tion under licensing procedure. Nor had the Minister's statement helped

concerning the "broken bulk" position. It was, however, possible to refute many points that Mr. D. L. Crouch, M.P. had made concerning aspirins and vending machines.

The Member for Nottingham had asked for clarification concerning asked for clarification concerning "supervision," and she felt that, before pharmacists went to see their Members of Parliament, they must know what of veterinary drugs was going to be fiercely debated. She said that, locally, the opportunity had been taken to point out to their Member of Parlia-ment that, if rural pharmacists were not allowed to have the sale of veterinary preparations or do the dispensing in rural areas then the general public in those areas would be deprived of a pharmaceutical service. It was clear that Members of Parliament were anxious to meet pharmacists in their constituencies. They realised they did not know anything about pharmacy, and that the Bill was complex

MR. M. GELLMAN, Manchester, was perturbed that the Bill left a loophore for dispensing doctors. It did not deal with unqualified dispensers, the noninspection of premises and the non-control of drugs, whereupon Mr. ALDINGTON pointed out that, parallel with the Medicines Bill, there was the "doctors' charter." The Council was pressing that the question should be

dealt with quickly.

MR. J. TOMLINSON, Manchester, regretted that proposals for the personal licensing of pharmacists had not been taken up. He also felt that, if more progress had been made with the planned distribution of pharmacies, some of the contentions of outside bodies that other trades should have equal distribution rights might be more easily overcome. Mr. ALDINGTON said he had hoped that planned distribution could have been incorporated in the Bill, but neither their thoughts nor a scheme were yet sufficiently advanced. On personal licensing, one thing that had been achieved in the Bill was that the superintendent pharmacist of a company must be a member of the board, Mr. J. Levy, Manchester (a member of Council) referred to the clause in the 1933 Act precluding medicines from being sold at a pharmacy when the pharmacist was not present. It meant, he said, that assistants had to refer customers to the nearest grocer. He also wanted to know how chemiists could hope to deal with the doctordispensing problem when the student intake was going down by 350 a year.

"Whole Body" Affected

Commenting on Mr. Levy's first point, MR. STEARNE said that, if things went wrong after sales by grocers, that did not affect the corporate image of pharmacy, but what went on "in connection with our profession does reflect upon the whole body." MR ALDINGTON dealt with Mr. Levy's second point. He agreed that the fall in the intake of students was to be regretted, and said the problem had been discussed with the heads of the school of pharmacy. It was the intake into "the sciences" as a whole, except medicine, that had dropped.

MR. C. MELLOR, Stockport, sought guidance on the steps to be taken by a "consortium" to obtain pharmaceutical service contracts in health centres and MR. ALDINGTON asked Mr. J. Kerr (chairman of the Practice Committee) to answer. Mr. KERR said that, during the debate on the Public Health Service Bill, an assurance had been gained from the Minister of Health that pharmacists would be allowed to go into health centres as contractors. If the local authority could be coaxed into giving the contract to a consortium, that would be helpful. The problem of "leap-frogging" was being discussed with other bodies. MR, MELLOR then suggested that the automatic granting of N.H.S, dispensing contracts should cease, but said it would be necessary to set up local practice committees to consider the service to the public. Mr. KERR pointed out there were no powers to prevent a pharmacy from opening. Mr. MELLOR described how the problem was posed at the Stockport Executive Council, where he had found support for the idea of a "non-auto-matic contract." He added "At least there is one Executive Council that thinks the same as we do."

MR. M. CASSON, Manchester, asked

if an application for an N.H.S. contract could be refused and MR. KERR replied "No." An approach to the Minister had shown he had no objection to the principle of a "non-automatic" contract provided all sections concerned were in agreement. The regulations would need

to be changed.

MR. LEUTY complained about incomplete prescriptions from doctors and was advised that the Local Pharmaceutical Committee had the power to act on cases reported to them. MR. LEVY expressed the opinion that doctors should keep duplicates of prescriptions so that they or their secretaries could deal with queries.

Finances of the Society

Opening his address MR. STEINMAN said that reports of Council activities seldom referred in any detail to the work of the Finance Committee. That arose from three causes. The first was that part of the work was important, but not interesting, routine. The Com-mittee received a report of a subcom-mittee, which met immediately before the main Committee, whose job each month was to scrutinise the lists of accounts for payment and to inquire into the reason for any expenditure as they saw fit. Members of the Finance Committee took it in turn to do the work and "it is done thoroughly." It was no sufficiently realised that the Society' expenditure was under the Committee's constant investigation. The Committee also received each month a report or the main sources of income, with com parative figures for the previous year and also for the last full year and the estimate for the current year. Ther was therefore a constant watch on bot income and expenditure. Another regu lar item on the agenda of the Financ Committee was consideration of recom mendations of other Committees, those recommendations had financia significance. The Finance Committee also had a subcommittee which dea

with investments. A second category of business related to the management of properties owned by the Society. Ordinary considerations of business prudence did not permit publication of the amount offered by the Society for the purchase or sale of property. The third category included matters concerning the Society's House, the use of rooms within it, the allocation of office space, purchase of office and other equipment and a variety of domestic matters that were not really of sufficient interest to the members to justify mention in the Council report.

General Fund

On the General Fund Mr. Steinman said there had been a time when income from examination fees was large and there had been a surplus on examinations, which had made a useful contribution towards the Society's general overheads. In recent years some loss on that account had become inevitable since the examination machinery could be dismantled exactly in proportion to the falling numbers of candidates, Exthe falling numbers of candidates, Expenditure on education grants and scholarships had taken the place of the cost which the Society had formerly incurred in running the School of Pharmacy, which now formed part of the University of London. The Pharmaceutical Scientific and the second of the se cal Society, as such, was not accepted as a charity, said Mr. Steinman, because not all its objects were charitable. It had, however, some charitable objects quite apart from the Benevolent Fund, which was treated separately for that purpose and it had therefore been possible to form a charity called the Pharmaceutical Trust to enable re-covery of the tax which the Society suffered on its investment income. "It is important to remember that, if the Society did not spend money on the library, the department of pharmaceuti-cal sciences and educational grants, it would not be able to recover tax on its investment income.

Administering the Law

The second main heading in the accounts was the administration of the Pharmacy Acts. Under that heading were shown the cost of maintaining the Registers of members and of premises, the publication of those Registers, the cost of the inspectorate and other legal costs, including the expenses of the Statutory Committee. Three considerable offsets to that expenditure were, first, a reimbursement each year of the cost incurred by the Society in administering the Pharmacy and Medicines Act. 1941, for the Ministry of Health. The second was a payment by the same Ministry to cover the additional cost incurred by the Society for duties undertaken under the National Health Service drug testing scheme. A further offset to the cost of maintaining the Register was the income received from sales of the printed Register. As to the amount which the Society spent on branch organisation, Mr. Steinman said that regional meetings had proved most successful and were not excessively expensive. They mitigated somewhat the concentration on London of the major meetings of members.

substantial rôle which the The

journal and publications played in the Society's finances made it difficult at times to budget accurately. There could be no certainty that advertisement income would be maintained. It could happen that the Council was presented with yearly estimates in which the advertisement revenue might be under- or over-estimated by as much as £25,000, and for a similar difference to arise on the estimated book sales. If those effects operated in different directions they tended to cancel one another out, but if they together," particularly in the adverse direction, the Society must depend upon its reserves to see it through

With the exception of publications, which were self-financing, all the Society's activities must be paid for out of its income from members' and premises fees. Members' fees brought in about £210,000 a year, premises fees about £76,000, so the ratio was about three to one. "It is a moot point whether these fees are in the correct proportion." Rather more than thirty years ago, when statutory fees had first been introduced, the ratio had been nearer two to one. Then, for a period, the income from the two fees had been almost equal, both reaching their statutory limits as fixed in the original legislation. It was important to remember, in that connection, that the Society was essentially a body of individual pharmacists; its character was dependent upon that. "In my opinion the present ratio is about right, but it must not be overlooked that, while, in the past ten years there has been, in the main, a steady increase in the membership, there has been an equally steady depremises." cline in the number of premises." Fees, therefore, had to be kept under constant review, so as to take account of changing circumstances. When the Council concluded that an increase in fees must be made, it had, apart from explaining its reasons to the membership, to prove its case to the Privy Council, and that was no mere formality. As one of its duties the Privy Council had the general oversight of all chartered bodies, putting it in a most effective position to make comparisons

between societies when approached on the subject of an increase in fees.

on the subject of an increase in fees.

The fee income was spent in the following proportions:—Education, etc.,
15 per cent.; administration of the Pharmacy Acts, 14 per cent.; branch organisation, 10 per cent.; general administration, 52 per cent.; miscellaneous, 9 per cent.

In considering those figures it should not be forgotten that the proportion for general administration appeared high

general administration appeared high because it included services it rendered to the other groups as well as to the Benevolent Fund, Birdsgrove House

and other charitable funds.

Slender Reserves

Mr. Steinman emphasised how slender the Society's reserves were. Net assets on General Fund at the end of 1966 were about £68,000. That was a small enough amount in relation to an income and expenditure each year that was running at over £600,000. It did not provide a reasonable margin.

Mr. Steinman then dealt with the Society's house and the building site at Lambeth. While a new building would have many attractions, Lambeth had not the convenience of access nor the strong traditional ties which linked the Society with Bloomsbury. Council had therefore put the Lambeth scheme "on the shelf," and was examining the possibility of further improvements to the Bloomsbury headquarters, with a view to staying there. "In these uncertain times, however, it would be unwise to sell the Lambeth site and write off that scheme completely. The Government has changed its mind once and may change it again. Indeed, a new Government might take a different view of the abandonment of the Bloomsbury site. It is wise, therefore, to keep both possibilities open for some

ittle time yet."

MR. MELLOR, Stockport, asked if the Society would be able to recover its new building expenses. Mr. STEINMAN replied that the Minister concerned had promised to consider the expenses the Society had been involved in, and the likelihood was that it would recover

DECIMAL COINAGE

Issue starts this year

D DAY - the day on which decimal currency is to be introduced into the United Kingdom, is Monday, February 15, 1971. Banks will be closed on the previous Thursday to Saturday (February 11-13, 1971). Leading up to the changeover, the Government has decided that:

(i) 5 and 10 new-penny coins will be issued from 1968 as required to maintain supplies of shillings and florins.

(ii) Decimal coin sets will be sold to

the public in 1968.

(iii) Circulating shillings and florins will not be withdrawn and replaced by the 5 and 10 new pennies at least until after the change-over.

The halfpenny will be demonetised (no longer legal tender), from August 1969.

(v) The half-crown will be demonetised from January 1, 1970.

(vi) A 50 new-penny coin will be introduced before D Day to replace the existing 10s. note.

(vii) No 20 or 25 new-penny coins will be minted as part of the initial decimal coin series.

There will be at least two decimal coin sets; a set of five consisting of the three bronze coins (the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2) with the 5 and 10 new-penny pieces, and a set of six with the 50 new-penny piece. The three bronze coins will not become legal tender until D Day. Just as the 5 and 10 new penny pieces will be used as shillings and florins before D Day, so shillings and florins will continue in circulation after D day as 5 and 10 new-penny coins. The present half-penny will have no place in the new system and being similar in size to the

2 new-penny piece, say the authorities, it would confuse people and complicate the change-over if both were to circulate together.

The 50 new-penny coin is likely to be a multi-sided coin and will be cupro-

nickel like the shilling and florin. Pennies, threepenny bits and sixpences will remain in circulation for a time after D. Day but in rapidly dwindling numbers and all will eventually be demonetised.

GUILD OF PUBLIC PHARMACISTS

Comments on forthcoming medicines legislation

ONE of the pharmacists appointed to the Medicines Commission proposed in the White Paper on forthcoming legislation (and now in the Medicines Bill) should be a hospital pharmacist states the Guild of Public Pharmacists in comments on the White Paper recently

Apart from paragraph 72 say the Guild there is no indication as to whether the Ministers intend to apply the system of licensing of manufacture and control of supply, labelling and description of drugs and medicines to hospitals. That could mean that either (1) parallel regulations would be applied in hospitals, or (2) exemption hospitals as Crown property. Guild believe that hospitals should not be exempted as Crown property, but that a system of controls should be applied. There should be a statutory obligation on the Ministers to provide the same protection for members of the public supplied with medicines in or from a hospital as the law provided for those who obtain them under Executive Council arrangements.

The Guild suggest that could be achieved in the following ways:

The Guild of Public Pharmacists should be one of the organisations to be consulted when appointments were made to the Medicines Commission and one of the pharmacists appointed to the Commission should be a person with practical experience in hospital

pharmacy.
One of the expert committees set up to advise the Medicines Commission should be a medicines in hospitals committee, which should advise on regulations to be applied to the manufacture and supply of medicinal substances, preparations and devices in hospitals. The majority of the committee should be pharmacists with practical experience in hospital pharmacy.

At the outset regulations should provide that:-

(a) In any hospital pharmacy or dispensing department the service provided should be under the control and supervision of a pharmacist. Authorisation to conduct a pharmacy in a hospital should. be restricted to pharmacists.

(b) Standards of accommodation, equipment and suitability of premises should be laid down and hospital authorities required to conform to those standards. Standards should be laid down requiring proper sanitary conditions and cleanliness and the provision of proper storage condi-tions (e.g. temperature and humidity) for medicinal substances, preparations and devices.

(c) Hospital pharmacies should be subject to inspection to enforce the standards laid down. The inspectors should be pharmacists appointed either by the Pharma-ceutical Society or by the Ministry of Health.

(d) Hospital pharmacists should

authorised to prepare, manufacture or obtain any substance, preparation or device included in the proposed legislation, without a licence, provided that they were intended for the treatment of a patient in, or an out-patient of, the particular hospital, or for supply to another hospital served by the pharmacist, or as the Ministers might direct. They should also be authorised to break bulk for supply in the same circumstances.

(e) Hospital pharmacists should be made

responsible for the nature and quality of drugs, medicinal preparations, dressings, chemicals and pharmaceutical which they supplied or dispensed.

(f) Hospital pharmacists should responsible for exercising medicinal substances and prepara control preparations throughout a hospital up to the time when a doctor or nurse selected a substance or preparation for administration

The Guild should be consulted on the appointment of members of expert committees responsible for the followsubstances and preparations—safety, efficacy, standards, labelling, advertisements and containers; and at least one pharmacist with experience in hospital pharmacy practice should be appointed to each expert committee set up to deal

Correspondence

Letters when received must bear the name and address of the sender, not necessarily for publication. The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the views expressed.

"Biased"

SIR,—No one can object reasonably to a solicitor or a Q.C. advocating a client's case or to the fact that advocacy is apt to be biased; if this were not so, the advocate would not be earning his fee. Hence no one need be surprised that if in similar circumstances the client is a drug manufacturer and their specialised consultants are orthodox economists, the report rendered by the latter may be biased and be pleasing to the client or, if the report is not, pleasing to others. Much of course depends upon the consultor course depends upon the consultant's terms of reference. If therefore, attention is called to the fact that the report ordered of their consultants by Bayer Products Co. (see C. & D., February 17, p. 137), is characterised by being within the framework of francial orthodoxy, which is the main financial orthodoxy, which is the main cause of the downfall of this country and of its subservience to foreign capital, that it deals only with the Sainsbury Report section alleging too high profits, and that it merely repeats the criticism of Cooper ("Prices and Profits in the Pharmaceutical Profits in the Pharmaceutical Industry," Pergamon Press 1966), and that this is not my definition of "independent" reporting, there may be some good reason for it. Messrs. Bayer products' special pleading may please the A.B.P.I. but will not wash else-M. A. PHILLIPS where.

Dr. M. A. Phillips and Associates Romford, Essex

A Burden

SIR,—Before our masters and legislators commit us to any further nonprofit-making activity, they would do well to bear in mind that the prime aim of the proprietor of a pharmacy is to make a profit. Further, that the most valuable commodity concerned is not capital but the managing pharmacist's time: time to control and direct: time to plan and implement for profit. And in many retail businesses the managing pharmacist is the only pharmacist. Continue to overload him with personal responsibilities and

prescription involved in Register; prescription book entries; packaging and labelling endorsements; N.H.S. prescription charge documentation, etc., and you will push him to the point at which he just has not sufficient time to run the business properly and profitably. The Pharmaceutical Society, which continues to pay lip service to Object 4 of the Supplemental Charter, rushed in to back Mr. Wilson with a promise of pharmacist co-operation in any pre-scription-charges scheme. It did not rush in to the aid of pharmacists like myself who have suffered from grossly unjust remuneration cuts imposed by Mr. Wilson's Minister of Health. As for getting involved in all the repetitive fuss of poisons-register completion or prescription-book entries for simple travel-sickness remedies—the logic escapes me. I do know that the time involved in explanations and documentation is going to result in the loss of a shilling or two for each transaction, at pharmacists' current rates of pay. Either there is a medical hazard in using these new classes of restricted products or there is not. If there is then, in my view, the products should be available on prescription only. If there is not, then restriction of sale to the restriction of sale to pharmacies should be considered adequate. The whole business of register-signing, address-label sticking, etc. for products in common usage merely detracts from the principle that restriction of sales of certain medicines to pharmacies is itself a safeguard—and implies that special measures are necessary to ensure that sale under qualified supervision is provided. The new Regulations will accomplish nothing and merely satisfy those who believe that the future of pharmacy lies in this sort of restrictive, negative, bureau cratic professionalism.

K. C. WARD, Southampton

Poser Solution

SECOND item in the prescription given last week — a veterinary prescription — was the name of the patient: "Mr. Pincoot's parrot."

TRADE REPORT

LONDON, FEBRUARY 21: Price move-ments in all sectors during the week were fewer than of late and there was little change in the volume of business being transacted. A small parcel of BUCHU was offered from origin after an absence of several weeks and it was reported that business was done at 15s. 3d. lb., c.i.f., on the Continent. Brazilian MENTHOL continued to decline, the forward position dropping by sixpence per lb, and spot by 1s, 6d. In AROMATIC SEEDS, Indian CELERY was 5s. cwt. dearer while FENUGREEK held the advanced level of the previous week, Early in February 700 bales of Tinnevelly SENNA LEAVES were shipped from Tuticorin to Buenos Aires. In January, there were no shipments of pods or leaves to the United Kingdom or the United States, but 84 tons of leaves and one ton of pods went to European ports. Costa Rican IPECACU-ANHA was slightly firmer in view of the continued absence of shipment offers. MACE was fractionally easier, while West Indian NUTMEGS were unchanged and in fairly steady demand. Japanese SENEGA was sixpence lb. dearer in both positions. Russian Liquorice ROOT was sharply up by 12s. 6d. cwt., so too was Indian Valerian (by 30s. cwt.). Lemon PEEL was offered for shipment at 2s. 6d. lb., c.i.f. There appeared to be no offers of Peruvian COCHINEAL or LYCO-PODIUM.

In ESSENTIAL OILS white CAMPHOR on the spot was fourpence kilo dearer in the absence of shipment offers. Madagascar CLOVE LEAF was about threepence lb. up; Zanzibar stem oil which letely has had some advantage. which lately has had some advantage in price over the Madagascar oil, has been withdrawn. Offers were again being made from India of LEMONGRASS. Chinese EUCALYPTUS moved up by sixpence kilo in bond and by threepence, c.i.f., while PEPPERMINT from the same

source eased threepence lb. Spanish OLIVE OIL is now quoted around the same price as oil from

other countries.

The schedules for ETHYL ALCOHOL and METHYLATED SPIRITS have been adjusted by one large producer. The effect is that bulk prices have been reduced while the small lots in drums are dearer.

Pharmaceutical Chemicals

ACETIC ACID.—(12-ton lots in bulk per ton), B.P.C. glacial, £85; 98-100 per cent., £78. 80 per cent. grades: technical, £68; pure £74.

AMINACRINE HYDROCHLORIDE. -£24 per kilo.

Ammonium acetate. — Kegs (50-kilos), B.P.C. 1949, 7s. 3d. per kilo. solution (200-kilo drums) strong, 2s. 3d. per kilo.

Ammonium bicarbonate.— B.P. powder £54 10s. per ton; Carbonate, £83 10s. for lump and £87 10s. for powder.

Ammonium Chloride.—50-kilo lots pure powder, 2s. 52d. per kilo in paper sacks. Antimony trichloride.—Flake in 25-kilo

drums, about 15s. kilo. BACITRACIN.—Sterile topical, 5s. per mega

unit for 25 m.u. lots.

Bemegride.—B.P.C. is 320s. per kilo.

The prices given are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. Various charges have to be added whereby values are augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock.

BISMUTH SALTS.—(Per kilo):—										
Quantity	Under 50	50	250							
CARBONATE SALICYLATE SUBGALLATE SUBNITRATE	s. d. 92 0 81 0 78 0 83 0	s. d. 90 0 79 0 76 0 81 0	s. d. 89 0 — 80 0							

CALCIUM CARBONATE.—B.P. light precipitated powder, 1-ton lots, £38 10s. per ton in free bags, ex works. PREPARED powder, £22 10s. per ton.

CALCIUM GLUCONATE.—1-4 cwt., 4s. 3d. lb.; 1-ton, 4s.

CALCIUM LACTATE.—B.P. 250 kilo lots is £412 per 1,000 kilo.

Cantharidin.—Per kilo, 11,511s.

CINCHOCAINE. - HYDROCHLORIDE, B.P. is 850s. per kilo.

CITRATES.—(Per kilo):—

	50 1	kilos	250	kilos	1,000	kilos
SODIUM POTASSIUM	s. 5	<i>d</i> . 0½ 3⅓	s. 4	<i>d</i> . 11½ 2⅓	s. 4	<i>d</i> . 9½ 0⅓
Iron and ammonium gran. scales		11	9 12	7 7	9	4 4

ETHYL ALCOHOL.—(Prices per proof gall.). PLAIN BRITISH SPIRIT, 66 over-proof (o.p.), in bulk, minimum 2,500 gall., 4s.; 500-gall., 4s. 1d.; minimum 900-gall. in drums, 4s. 2d. S.V.R. (68.5 o.p.), 4s. 2d., 4s. 3d. and 4s. 4½d. for same quantities. Absolute (74.5 o.p.), 4s. 4d., 4s. 5d., 4s. 6½d. SYNTHETIC grades minimum 2,500 gall. 66 o.p., 2s. 11½d., 900 gall. in drums, 3s. 1d. Absolute, 3s. 1½d., 3s. 4d. Current duty on fermentation grades, £16 2s. 9d. p.p.g.

GLUCOSE.—(Per ton) MONOHYDRATE P. P. ETHYL ALCOHOL .- (Prices per proof gall.).

Glucose.—(Per ton) monohydrate, B.P. powder, £76; anhydrous, £148 10s.; Liquid, 43. Baume £59 10s. (5-drum lots).

HYDROQUINONE.-1-cwt. lots, 10s. per lb., 1-ton, 8s, 6d.

METHYLATED SPIRITS.—(Per gall, in 45-gall. drums, 450-gall. 66 o.p.) INDUSTRIAL, 5s. 7½d.; PERFUMERY grade, 6s. 10d.; mineralised (64 o.p.), 5s. 11d.

PROPIONIC ACID.—5-tons £142 ton. SUCCINIC ACID.—One-ton £149 in drums.

Crude Drugs

Annatto.—Madras, seed, 175s. cwt.

BALSAMS.—(per lb.). CANADA: 34s. 6d., c.i.f. (35s. spot); COPAIBA: B.P.C., 10s. 9d., c.i.f. (10s. 6d. spot); PERU: 13s., c.i.f. (13s. 6d. spot); Tolu: B.P., 13s.-14s.; genuine as imported, 41s. 6d., c.i.f.

BUCHU.-LEAVES, new-crop, 15s. 3d. lb.

CARDAMOMS.—(per lb.). Alleppy greens, 18s. 6d. (16s. 1½d., c.i.f.). Prime seed, 31s. (29s. 6d., c.i.f.).

CHILLIES.—Zanzibar for shipment, 310s. cwt., c.i.f.; Mombasa, 310s. (270s., c.i.f.).

CINNAMON.—Seychelles BARK, 145s. cwt., c.i.f.; (167s. 6d. spot). Ceylon Qullls (c.i.f., five 0's, 11s. 8d. lb.; four 0's, 10s. 3d.; firsts) 7s.; quillings, 5s. 4½d.

COCHINEAL.—(Per lb.). Canary Isles silver-rey, 21s. (20s. 6d., c.i.f.), spot; black grey, 21s. (20s. 6d., c.i.f.), spot; black brilliant, 27s. 6d. (26s. 6d., c.i.f.). Peruvian silver-grey, 17s., c.i.f., nominal.

Dandelion.-Root, 260s. cwt. nominal. ERGOT.—Portuguese—Spanish, 8s. 6d. lb.

GINGER.—(per cwt.). Nigerian split, 140s.; peeled, 165s. (145s., c.i.f.); Jamaican No. 3, 320s. (325s., c.i.f.); Cochin, 230s. spot and c.i.f. African, 195s., spot.

GUM ACACIA.—Kordofan cleaned sorts, 195s. ex wharf; shipment, 202s., c.i.f.

Hyoscyamus.-Niger, 2s. 3d. lb. (2s. 1d.,

IPECACUANHA.—(Per lb.). Matto Grosso, 47s. (47s., c.i.f. nominal); Costa Rican, 62s. 6d.; Colombian, 46s. 6d. (47s. 6d., c.i.f.).

LANOLIN. — ANHYDROUS, B.P. is from 2s. 2½d. to 2s. 6d. per lb. in 1-ton lots delivered free drums. Commercial grades from 1s. 4½d. and cosmetic, 2s. 8d.

LEMON PEEL.—Unextracted for shipment, 2s. 6d. lb., c.i.f.

LIQUORICE.—ROOT, Russian, dearer at 82s. 6d. cwt.; BLOCK JUICE; Anatolian, 250s. per cwt.

MACE.—Grenada No. 1, new crop, 8s. 11d. lb., c.i.f.

MENTHOL.—(Per lb.). Chinese, 35s. 6d., c.i.f. and in bond. Brazilian for shipment, 29s., c.i.f.; spot, 31s., in bond.

NUTMEGS.—(Per lb.). West Indian, 80's, 5s. 5d.; 110's, 4s. 3d.; defectives, 2s. 6d., sound unsorted, 3s. 7d., all c.i.f.

PEPPER.—White Sarawak, spot, 3s. 3d. lb. shipment, 3s. 2d., c.i.f.; black, 2s. 7½d., c.i.f.; Brazilian black No. 1, 2s. 10½d., duty

paid.

SEEDS.—(Per cwt.) Anise.—China star, 265s., duty paid. Celery.—Indian, 200s. (190s., c.i.f.). Coriander.—Moroccan, 135s., duty paid (116s., c.i.f.); Rumanian whole, 130s., duty paid (114s., c.i.f.); splits, 105s., c.i.f. Cumin.—Iranian, 190s., duty paid (165s., c.i.f.); Syrian, 160s., c.i.f. Dill.—Indian in short supply, 160s., nominal. Fennel.—Chinese, 135s., duty paid (105s., c.i.f.); Indian, 180s. Fenugreek.—Moroccan, 97s. 6d., duty paid (82s. 6d., c.i.f.). Mustard.—English, 87s. 6d. to 100s.; as to quality.

TURMERIC.—Madras finger, 190s. cwt., spot; March-April shipment, 145s., c.i.f.

Valerian Root. — Indian, 310s., cwt. (300s., c.i.f.); Continental, 470s., c.i.f. (475s. spot).

Vanillin.—(Per lb.), 5-cwt. lots, 21s. 6d.; 2-cwt., 21s. 9d.; 56-lb., 22s.; small quantities, 22s. 6d.

WAXES.—(Per cwt.) Bees', Dar-es-Salaam, 765s., c.i.f. CARNAUBA, fatty grey, spot, 335s. (312s. 6d., c.i.f.), prime yellow spot, 475s. (427s. 6d., c.i.f.).

WITCH HAZEL LEAVES .- 5s. lb. spot and

Essential and Expressed Oils

CAMPHOR, WHITE.—Chinese, 7s. 6d. kilo, spot; no shipment offers.

CLOVE. — (lb.) Madagascar leaf for shipment, 11s., 6d., c.i.f. spot, 13s., duty paid. Rectified, 15s. Distilled bud oil English, в.р., 34s.

EUCALYPTUS.—Chinese, 80-85 per cent., 10s. 6d. per kilo in bond; 10s. 3d., c.i.f.

LEMONGRASS.—38s. kilo spot and c.i.f.

OLIVE.—Spot, £350 per ton ex wharf £355. Spanish £280-£290 metric ton f.o.b.; Tunisian, £285-£295 c. and f., London. f.o.b.;

PEPPERMINT.—(Per lb.), Arvenis: Chinese shipment, los. 6d., c.i.f.; spot los. 9d. Brazilian, 9s. 3d., spot; 9s., c.i.f. American Piperata, 40s. to 47s. 6d.; Italian, 95s.

Spearmint.—American, 65s. lb. Chinese, spot, 62s. 6d. per kilo; shipment, 60s., c.i.f.

UNITED STATES REPORT

New York, February 20: Prices of Quinidine sulphate were reduced by 10 cents to a range of \$1.50-\$1.75 per oz. The HYDROCHLORIDE was unchanged East Indian LEMONGRASS has increased 25 cents to \$2.35 per lb.
SPEARMINT can be obtained at a lower price of \$5.75 lb.

TRADE MARKS

APPLICATIONS ADVERTISED BEFORE REGISTRATION

"Trade Marks Journal," February 7, No. 4667

For chemical products for use in agriculture,

horticulture and forestry; manures (1)
Device with letter V, B906,417, by Vitax,
Ltd., Ormskirk, Lancs.

For chemical preparations for use in diagnostic and analytical tests to determine the presence of acid or alkaline phosphatase in biological

PHOSPHASTRATE, 907,485, by Warner-Lambert Pharmaceutical Co., Morris Plains, New Jersey, U.S.A.

For chemical products for use in industry, science and photography (1)
HIMIC, 910,749, by Hitachi Seisakusho,

K.K., Tokyo, Japan.

For artificial sweetening preparations (1)

REXALL SUPER SWEET'N, 913,158, by Vantorex, Ltd., Loughborough, Leics.

For chemical products for use in industry, science and photography, agriculture, horticulture and forestry; none being for export to or sale in Puerto Rico (1) and for soaps; and detergents (not for use in industrial or manufacturing processes); none being for export to or sale in Puerto Rico (3)

BI-TEEPOL, 903,954-55, by Shell International Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, S.E.1. For fertilisers, manures (natural and artificial) and chemical products used in agriculture, horticulture and forestry (1) and for pesticidal preparations, insecticidal preparations, herbicidal compositions, preparations for destroying vermin, preparations for killing weeds; and disinfectants (5)

TRIONIZED, 913,894-95, by O. M. Scott & Sons Co., Marysville, Ohio, 43040, U.S.A. For cosmetic and non-medicated toilet preparations (3)

Device, 897,079, by Pendle Coven, Ltd., Manchester 2, Lancs.

For soaps, perfumes, non-medicated toilet preparations, essential oils, cosmetics, dentifices, and preparations for the hair, all for use by women and girls (3)

MISS WORLD, 902,501, by Mecca, Ltd.,

London, S.E.1.

For non-medicated toilet preparotions and cosmetics, lotions for the hair, essential oils, dentifrices, perfuned soap and toilet articles

BAL A VERSAILLES, B910,935, by Parfums Jean Despez, Neuilly-on-Seine, France. For perfumes, non-medicated toilet prepara-tions, cosmetic preparations, dentifrices, depilatory preparations, toilet articles, sachets for use in waving the hair, shampoos, soaps and essential oils (3)

TOP TEAM, 913,332, by Studio Hollywood, Ltd., Havant, Hants. SPRING BLOSSOM, 913,353, by Beecham Toiletry Products, Brentford, Middlesex.

For herbicides and insecticides, oll being chemical compositions (5)

Device with word, HOOKER, 875,445, by Hooker Chemical Corporation, Niagara Falls, New York, U.S.A.

For medical and surgical plasters (5)

MECUMPLAST, 886,908, by Firma Hans

Neschen, Buckeburg, Germany.

For medicated preparations for the treatment of the scalp and skin; sanitary substances, deodorants and disinfectants (5)
PUREMAGI, 900,730, by Max Factor & Co., Hollywood, California, U.S.A.

For pharmoceuticol and veterinary prepara-tions for the prevention of ovulation in animals (5)

ANOVULIN, 904,951, by N.V. Apharmo, Arnhem, Holland.

For phormaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparotions and substances; disinfectants; infonts', invalids' and dietetic foods; preparations for killing weeds and destroying vermin

ASTOM, 904,968, by Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd., Greenford, Middlesex. For pharmaceutical substances (5)

NATTERMANN ESSENTIALE 303, B906,351,

by A. Nattermann & Cie, G.m.b.H., 5 Koln-Braunsfeld 1, Germany. For medical and pharmaceutical preparations

ANBETIC, 907,586, by E. R. Sons, Ltd., Twickenham, Middlesex. R. Squibb & For pharmaceutical preparations and sub-

TRANQUAX, 908,327, by Berk Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., Goldalming, Surrey.

For preparations for killing weeds and destroy-

ing vermin; pesticides (5)
WALLOP, 908,707, by Monsanto Co., Creve
Coeur, Missouri, U.S.A.
For medicated confectionery (5)

RETSYN, 910,263, by Hall Brothers (Whitefield), Ltd., Whitefield, Nr. Manchester.

For veterinary vaccines (5)

PASTACIDIN, 910,582, by Internatio
Serum Co., Ltd., London, N.W.7.

International

For pharmaceutical dermatological preparations for the bath (5)

the bain (5) LUBATH, B910,982, by Warner-Lambert Pharmaceutical Co., Morris Plains, New Jersey, U.S.A.

For pharmaceutical substances for use as haematinics (5)

HAEMOTON, 911,327, by Roussel-Uclaf, Paris 7, France,

For pharmaceutical preparations and substances

KELFIZINE, 911,552, by Societa Farmaceutici Italia, Milan, Italy.

For pharmaceutical preparations for human and veterinary use, sanitary substances, medical and surgical plasters, material prepared for bandaging, disinfectants and antiseptics (5)
RESOFERON, 911,682, by J. R. Geigy,

A.G., Basle, Switzerland.

For herbal preparations and substances, all for the expulsion of intestinal worms in human beings (5)
ANVERMIN, 912,278, by Carter Bros.,

Shipley, Yorkshire.

Simpley, Toksilite.

For pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary substances; infants' and invalids' foods; medical and surgical plasters, material prepared for bandaging; material for stopping teeth, dental wax; disinfectants; preparations for

eeds and destroying vernin (5) BRIPHARM, 912,879, by N.V. Koninklijke Pharmaceutische Fabrieken V/H Brocades-Stheeman & Pharmacia, Amsterdam, Holland. For pharmaceutical preparations and substances

or human and veterinary use (5) LOGOSTIL, 912,945, CIBACTANE, 913,527, OTRIVINE, 913,934, by CIBA, Ltd., Basle, Switzerland.

For anorexigenic pharmaceutical preparations

APIQUEL, 913,156, by McNeil Laboratories, Inc., Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. For veterinary preparations and substances (5)
MATABICHEIRA, 914,154, SULNICO,
914,156, by Cooper McDougall & Robertson,

Ltd., Berkhamsted, Herts. For surgical bandages (5) and for bondages for ankle joints; artificial limbs (9)
BANTAMIL, 913,753-54, by CIBA, Ltd.,

Basle, Switzerland.

For electrical apparatus and instruments and

parts and fittings (9)
DREAMATIC, 914,443, by Dreamland
Electrical Appliances, Ltd., Hythe, Southampton, Hants.

For surgicol, medical and dental instruments and apparatus (10)

DISPOSEX, 912,741, by Hawley Russell & Baker, Ltd., Potters Bar, Herts.

PATENTS

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED From the "Official Journal (Patents)" February 7

Process for the production of acid proof amylase by means of black aspergilli. K. F. Mellor, (Meiji Seika K.K.) 1,106,421.

Peptides with anti-shock activity and a method of preparing same. Ceskoslovenska Akademie Ved. 1,106,536.

Process for producing L-glutamic acid by using bacteria. Asahi Kasei Kogyo, K.K. 1,106,554.

Disposable culturing device. Allergan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 1,106,465.

Pharmaceutically-active extracts of the nympheaceae, R. N. Benhaim, 1,106,551.

Butyne-2 derivatives, their process of preparation and therapeutical composition containing same. Laboratoires du Docteur Auclair, 1,106,609.

Oxazole compounds. Les Laboratoires Dausse. 1,106,679.

Diuretic and saliuretic sustained-release compositions. CIBA, Ltd. 1,106,728.

Piperidine derivatives and the homologues thereof and process for their production. J. R. Geigy, A.G., 1,106,742.

Hypodermic syringes, Long & Hambly, Ltd. 1.106.825. and intermediate for the manufacture

3-hydroxy-17-keto steroids. G. D. Searle & Co. 1,106,827.

Process for the production of porous self-

adhesive tapes or sheets, particularly plasters. P. Beiersdorf & Co., A.G. 1,106,832. ietary biscuits. Sandoz Products,

Dietary Steroid 20-ketal intermediates. Phytogen Pro-

ducts, Inc. 1,106,884-85, Preparation of steroid 3-ketal derivatives.

Phytogen Products, Inc. 1,106,886.

Sporicidal agents. Shell Internationale Research Maatschappij, N.V. 1,106,887.

Preparation of pharmaceutical products. Pigot & Smith, Ltd., 1,106,932.

Use of antimicrobial preparations. Farben-fabriken Bayer, A.G. 1,106,939. Shampoo preparation, Medisan, A.B. 1,106,945.

Fermentative preparation of L-glutamic acid.

Ajinomoto Co., Inc. 1,106,956.

Instrument for crushing concretions in the uringry bladder, O. G. Balaev, and Y. G. Ediny. 1,106,957.

Cosmetic depigmenting compositions. Scherico.

Ltd. 1,107,071-02.

Process for the production of L-tryptophal by fermentation. Chugai Seikayu, K.K. 1,107,095.

Sulphonamides and a process for the manufac ture thereof. F. Hoffman-La Roche & Co. A.G. 1,107,104.

Sulphonamide derivatives, F. Hoffman-La Roche & Co., A.G. 1,107,105.

Triamines. F. Hoffman-La Roche & Co., A.G.

1, 107, 106. Benzyl-substituted sulphonantides. F. Hoffman

La Roche & Co., A.G. 1,107,107. Antibiotic josamycin and processes for the production thereof. Microbial Chemistry Research Foundation, 1,107,112.

insecticide dispensers. Aerosol Colgate Palmolive Co. 1,107,140.

British patent specification relating to the above will be obtainable (price 4s. 6d. each from the Patents Office, 25 Southampto Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2 from March 20.

NEW COMPANIES

P.C.=Private Company. R.O.=Registered Office

C. PERCY (DISPENSING CHEMIST), LTT

C. PERCY (DISPENSING CHEMIST), LTI (P.C.). — Capital £100. Directors: Constanterey, M.P.S. and Vera B. Ferguson. R.O. 212 Main Road, Hawkwell, Hockley, Essen DOLLIMORE COSMETICS, LTD. (P.C.— Capital £100. To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in cosmetic etc. Subscribers: P. F. Campkin and Margar Campkin, 211 Rydal Drive, Bexleyheath, Ken HILLGATE PHARMACY, LTD. (P.C.) Capital £100. To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, etc. Directors: Robert I Reid and David J. Reid. R.O.: 29 Old Baile London, E.C.4.

London, E.C.4.
MAYPAR & CO., LTD. (P.C.).—Capit

MAITAK & CU., LTD. (P.C.).—Capit £100. To deal in perming lotions, perfumes, et Directors: Michael A. Parker and Sydney Parker. R.O.: 68 Upper Thames Street, Lodon, E.C.4.

TONY SMITH, LTD. (P.C.).-Capital £10 To carry on the business of manufacturers and dealers in photographic equipment, et Subscribers: Stanley H. Davis and Dav Ordish, R.O.: 35 East Street, Horsham, Su

RINT AND PUBLICITY

EW designs in dispensing labels are istrated in a brochure "Modern bels for the Up-to-date Pharmacy "Modern ued by Briggs & Bamforth, Ltd., ngs Avenue, Leeds, 6. The designs lude variations in the traditional boy theme and motifs incorporating stle and mortar and the pharmacist's tials.

PRESS ADVERTISING

ress.

TALINE Co., LTD., Linthwaite Laboratories, Huddersfield, Yorks: Cataline. In farming

(PNGLAND), LTD., 3 Stratford Place, condon, W.1: New lipstick range, including The Magnificent Eight. In Woman's own, Vogue, Nova, Vanity Fair, Flair, ashion and Honey.

asnion and Honey.

BOLLEY OF LONDON, LTD., 33 Old Bond treet, London, W.1: Yardley preparations.

Woman's Own, Vogue, Honey, Flair, Vanity Fair, Nova, Petticoat and Nineteen.

Co., 101 Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middle-

ex: Caress. In Rave, Casual, Woman's Own. Noman's Realm, Woman's Weekly, Vogue, Woman's Realm, Woman's Weekly, Vogue, Woman and Home, My Weekly, Sunday Exress, Sunday Post and Weekend.

ress, sunday rost and Weekend.
TH & Nephew, Ltd., Tolletries Division, iessemer Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts: erene. In Woman's Own, Woman's Realm, Yoman's Weekly, Good Housekeeping, ogue, She, Woman and Home and Nova. livea Creme and cosmetics. In Woman, Yoman's Own, Woman's Weekly, Woman nd Home, She, Living, Annabel, Honey nd 19.

CLIFEE, LTD., Unimart House, Stonar, Sandich, Kent: Trimetts Trebles. In Woman and Woman's Own. Early months of 1968.

Booklets and Leaflets

TEX PHARMACEUTICALS, LTD., St. Ives House, Iaidenhead, Berks.: "Masteril, anti-oestro-enic mammary carcinoma palliative." (12-p.

WANDER, LTD., pharmaceutical division, ing's Langley, Herts: Pasinah-D. "Taste akes all the Difference" (4-p. brochure).

R. SQUIBB & SONS, LTD., Regal House, wickenham, Middlesex: Fungicilin (24-p. poklet).

COMING EVENTS

Items for inclusion under this heading should be sent in time to reach the Editor not later than first post on Wednesday of the week of insertion.

Monday, February 26

BIRKENHEAD AND LIVERPOOL BRANCHES, PHAR-MACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Prenton hotel, Borough Road, Birkenhead, at 8 p.m. Discussion of Branch resolutions. [Corrected note.]

of the Chest, Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road, London, S.W.3, at 6.15 p.m. Dr. R. W. Riddell on "The Problem of Drug Resistance in Tuberculosis: Laboratory Aspects." University of London, Institute of Diseases

WEST KENT BRANCH, NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL Union, New Hackwood hotel, Widmore Road, Bromley, at 8 p.m. Annual meeting followed by Mr. N. O. L. Manchip on "Making the the Best of Self Selection."

Tuesday, February 27

IPSWICH AND SUFFOLK BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL Society, Civic College, Rope Walk, Ipswich, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. H. W. Tomski (director, Institute of Pharmacy Management) on "Economics of Pharmacy."

LANCASTER, MORECAMBE AND WESTMORLAND BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Postgraduate medical centre, Ashton Road, Lancaster, at 8 p.m. Films and recorded lec-

LIVERPOOL REGIONAL COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY. Byron Street, Liverpool, 3, at 8 p.m. Dr. R. W. Smithers (Alder Hey Children's Hospital, West Derby, Liverpool) on "Pharmacology of Drugs used in Paediatric Medicine."

STIRLING AND CENTRAL SCOTTISH BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, Mathieson's rooms, Falkirk, at 8 p.m. Annual dinner and dance.

WEST HERTEORDSHIRE BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL Society, Reading room, High Street, Kings Langley, at 8 p.m. "Modern Sterilisation Methods and Techniques." (Lecture course.)

Wednesday, February 28

Bradeord Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Connaught rooms, Bradford, at 7 p.m. Annual dinner and dance.

MANCHESTER PHARMACEUTICAL GOLEING SOCIETY, Boyd House, Upper Park Road, Victoria Park, Rusholme, Manchester, at 7 p.m. Annual dinner,

PHARMACEUTICAL GROUP LUNCHEON CLUB, ROYAL SOCIETY OF HEALTH, Quaglino's restaurant, Bury Street, London, S.W.1, at 12 noon. Dr. H. W. Ashworth (Darbishire House health centre, University of Manchester) on "Pharmaceutical and Practiciation". tioner Communication."

Thursday, February 29

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH, NATIONAL PHARMA-CEUTICAL UNION, Medical centre, Palmerston Road, Boscombe, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. J. B. Thompson on "Retail Business Efficiency."

Thompson on "Retail Business Efficiency."
COVENTRY TECHNICAL COLLEGE, Whitley Abbey School, Abbey Road, Coventry, at 7.30 p.m. Dr. W. Brumfitt (senior lecturer, Wright Fleming Institute of Microbiology) on "Penicillin and its Derivatives."
DARTEORD BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, and LOCAL DIVISION, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Lecture theatre, Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, at 8 p.m. Film evening. HEALTH RESEARCH GROUP, ROYAL SOCIETY OF HEALTH Kent suite. Eccleston hotel Eccles.

HEALTH, Kent suite, Eccleston hotel, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, at 6 p.m. Dr. J. J. A. Reid (medical officer of health, Buckinghamshire) on "The Role of the Local Health Services in Community Health Care Today and Tomorrow."

Merseyside Branches, Pharmaceutical Society and Local Divisions, British Medical Association, Central hotel, Birkenhead, at 8 p.m. Professor A. H. Beckett on "The Problem of 'Dope' in Sport and Society and Some of the Methods for its Control." MERSEYSIDE

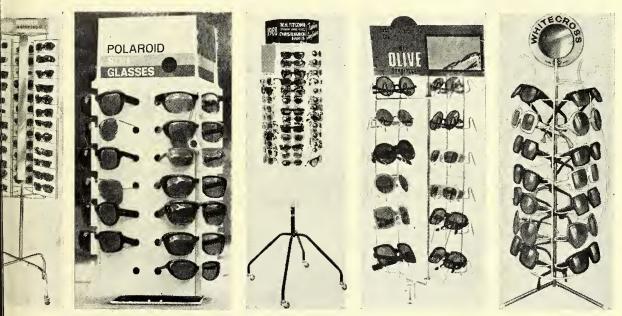
NORTH STAEFORDSHIRE BRANCH, PHARMACEUTICAL Society, North Stafford hotel, Stoke-on-Trent, at 6.30 p.m. Annual dinner and

dance.

ROYAL SOCIETY, 6 Carlton House Terrace,
London, S.W.1, at 10.30 a.m. Discussion
meeting on science and technology of aerosol pollution in modern society.

Sunday, March 3

AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY GROUP, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, 17 Blooms-bury Square, London, W.C.I, at 3 p.m. Annual meeting followed by Mr. W. P. B. Phillpotts on "The Economics of Agricul-tural and Veterinary Practice Pharmacy."



SUNGLASS DISPLAY: Stands offered by Alfred Franks & Bartlett Co., Ltd., 276 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1; Polaroid (U.K.), Rosanne House, Welwyn Garden City, Herts; W. H. Titcomb, 24 Hurn Road, Christchurch, Hants; H. Weinberger, Ltd., Britannia House, von Park, London, N.5; and Whitecross Optical Co., Ltd., Frederick Works, Rochester Place, London, N.W.1.

NATIONAL CHAMBER OF TRADE, Pier pavilion, Hastings, Sussex, April 27 to May 1. Annual meeting and trade conference.

Courses and Conferences

BRITISH WEED CONTROL CONFERENCE, Metropole hotel, Brighton, Sussex, November 18-21. Secretary: Mr. W. F. P. Bishop, 140 Bensham Lane, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR4 7YU.

DRUG INFORMATION ASSOCIATION, John Marshall hotel, Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A., April 21-23. Annual convention. Theme: "Five-year Impact of New-drug Legislation."

NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL UNION, Rouge-mont hotel, Queen Street, Exeter, at 7 p.m. on March 5; Continental hotel, Millbay Road, Plymouth, at 3 p.m. on March 6 and Bristol hotel, Narrowcliff, Newquay, at 3 p.m. on March 7. Staff training conferences.

National Pharmaceutical Union, Queen's hotel, Hastings, Sussex, at 2.30 p.m. on May 12. Area meeting. (Lunch 12.15 p.m., coach tour for ladies 2.15 p.m.)

Exhibitions and Fairs

IMPO 67 (Photographic Importers' Association travelling exhibition), COVENTRY, Leofric hotel, Broadgate, February 26; BOURNE-MOUTH, Pavilion, Westover Road, February 29.

OVERSEAS NEWS

UNITED STATES

Training for Administration

A POST-GRADUATE in-service training programme is being arranged at the headquarters of the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists with the objective of providing selected graduate pharmacists with training and experience in the Society's administrative practices and procedures to create a corps of trained professionals who can be considered for Society staff positions as they become available, and to train individuals for corresponding positions with other professional pharmaceutical, hospital and related organisations. Trainees will participate in the activities of all departments on a full-time basis for fifty weeks, and will be paid an appropriate stipend.

N.H.S. STATISTICS

In England during September 1967 contractors dispensed 20,155,783 prescriptions (12,971,556 forms). Total cost was £10,924,791 (average 130.08d. per prescription).

escribers

What doctors are reading about developments in drugs and treatments

COMPARISON of cyclic and non-cyclic drug regimens in the treatment of acute childhood leukaemia has shown no statistically significant differences between the methods. Cyclic therapy, in which the chosen drugs are administered in recurring cycles, has been proposed as a means of delaying development of drug resistance by the leukaemic cells, each drug being dis-continued before the emergence of resistance. However, the Australian Cancer Society's childhood leukaemia study group has now reported a controlled trial in 101 patients and found difference between the cyclic regimen and a regimen in which each drug is used until signs of relapse appear, a new drug being then substituted. The group of drugs in each regimen was vincristine, 6-mercaptopurine cyclophosphamide and methotregate. trexate. A similar finding was recently reported by a United States group (Lancet, February 17, p. 313).

Intravenous infusion of 0.8 per cent. chlormethiazole is recommended to be used in the management of labour in patients with pre-eclamptic toxaemia, workers at the Aberdeen Maternity Hospital after a study of fifty patients. Existing forms of treat-ment had been found to carry continuing high perinatal mortality rates and the authors were therefore seeking a sedative and anticonvulsant that could be easily administered and would not unduly affect the baby. Results with chlormethiazole are said to be "encouraging" in terms of control of the maternal condition and foetal health and survival (Lancet, February 17, p. 335).

Amiloride hydrochloride, a potas-sium-sparing diuretic recently found effective in combination with frusemide or ethacrynic acid (see C. & D., January 27, p. 88), has now been compared

with hydroclorthiazide. Workers of the Medical Research Council clinical pharmacology research group and Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, found that in mild hypertensives receiving no other therapy 15mgm. of amiloride hydrochloride and 50 mgm. of hydrochlorthiazide daily are indistinguishable in their hypotensive effects. Combination of the two agents produced no further hypotensive effect and was considered too potent producing excessive diuresis in two patients. However plasma potassium remained near pre-treatment levels remained near pre-treatment levels whereas with hydrochlorthiazide alone it tended to fall and with amiloride hydrochloride alone it rose. (B.M.J. February 17, p. 422).

CONTEMPORARY THEMES

Subjects of contributions in current medica and technical publications

CHILDHOOD LEUKAEMIA. Cyclic drug regime for acute. Lancet, February 17, p. 313. ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES. Investigation and trea ment of amenorrhoea developing after trea ment with. Lancet, February 17, p. 325. FURAZOLIDONE in the treatment of cholen Lancet, February 17, p. 332.

INTRAVENOUS CHLORMETHIAZOLE in pre-eclampt toxaemia in labour. Lancet, February

INTRAVENOUS ISOPRENALINE AND ORCIPRENALIN as a guide to the drug treatment of Stoke Adams Attacks. Brit. med. J., February 1 p. 419.

HYDROCHLORIDE in hypertensi AMILORIDE AMILORIDE HYDROCHLORDE IN INSPECTION TO THE PROPERTY OF A KILLER in the cot [respiratory syncyt virus]. New Scientist, February 15, p. 36 GUINEA-PIG COMPLEMENT: two active forms first component. Science, January 19, p. 32 HYDROXYUREA action of on multiplication influenza virus in mammalian cells. Natu February 17, p. 646.

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